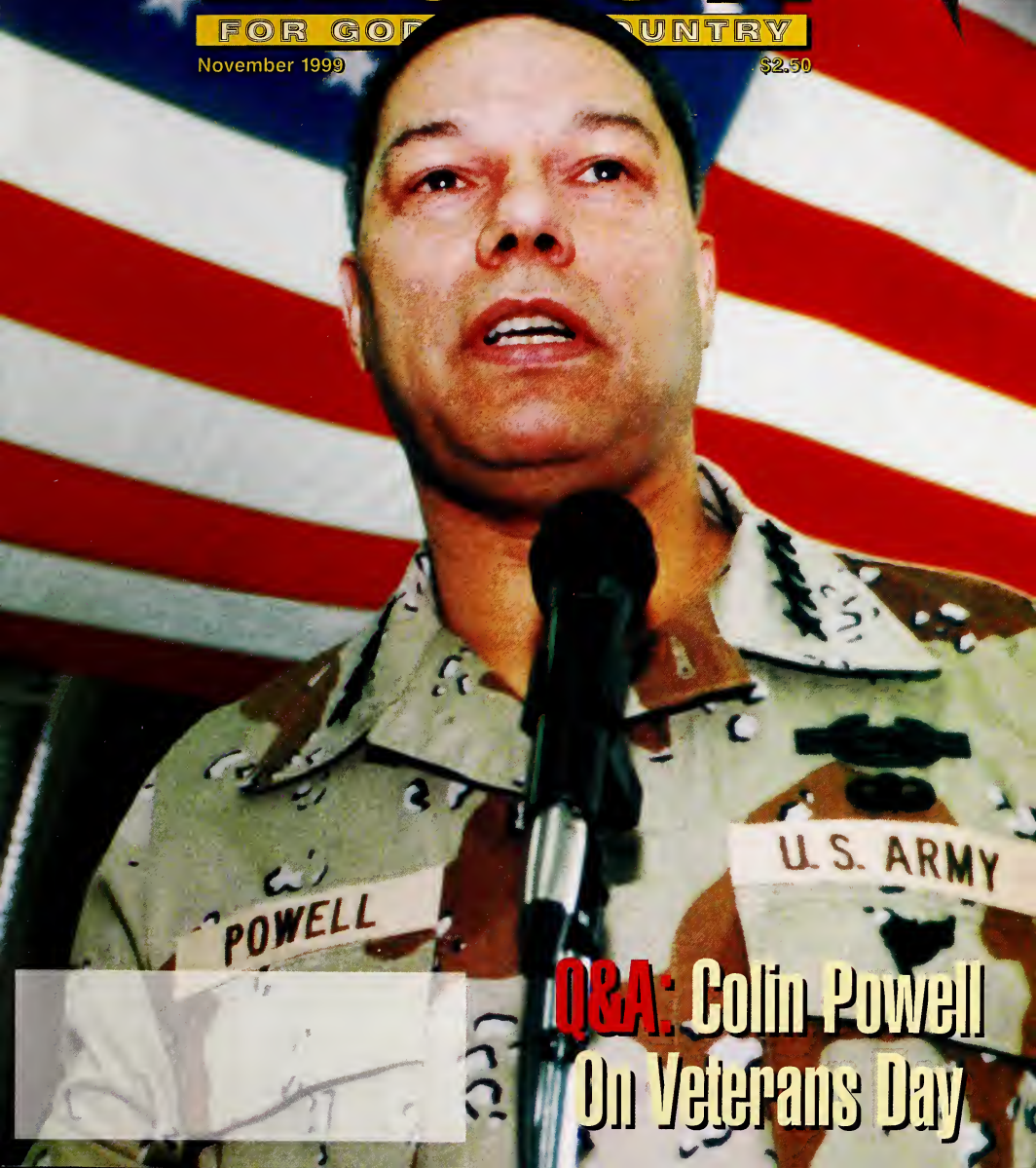


# THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

November 1999

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**Q&A:** Colin Powell  
On Veterans Day

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# THE AMERICAN LEGION

Vol. 147, No. 5

The Magazine for a Strong America

NOVEMBER 1999

## CONVENTION—ANAHEIM

### MORALE IS HIGH!

Legionnaires come together for the 81st National Convention in Anaheim, Calif.

10

### IT NEVER RAINS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

This year's Convention Parade was awash in blue skies and sunshine.

20

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM ANAHEIM

Speeches, entertainment, awards and more took center stage at the Convention.

30

### 81ST NATIONAL CONVENTION ADOPTS 62 RESOLUTIONS

The American Legion's priorities and concerns set the tone for the coming year.

34

### MEET YOUR LEGION LEADERS

The Legion's top leadership offers a wide variety of talent and experience.

38

## ARTICLES

### FULFILLED FIELD DREAMS By Steve Brown

Big bats attack a Connecticut town as the Legion World Series wraps up its 74th season.

42

### GILT FOR THE GOLDEN YEARS By Theodore Rickard

Financial security in retirement is but a stroll on a sunny beach with a bouncy dog in tow. On the other hand, maybe it's flipping burgers for minimum wages.

44

### RESTORING THE SHINING CITY ON THE HILL By William J. Bennett

The troubling question, "What's wrong with America?" not only has an answer, but a solution.

48

### JUST AN AVERAGE HERO By Terry Coffey and Peter B. Rose

When it comes to celebrity status, Medal of Honor recipient Gary Wetzell would rather sit on the sidelines.

52

### INTERVIEW WITH GEN. COLIN POWELL By Donald T. Lambro

Retired JCS chairman discusses veterans' issues and America's defense.

56

## DEPARTMENTS

### NETVOICE

4

### WASHINGTON WATCH

60

### VETS

64

### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

8

### LEGION NEWS

62

### PARTING SHOTS

72

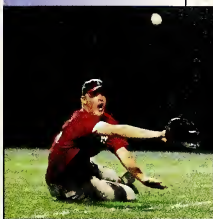
### COVER Gen. Colin Powell addresses troops during Operation Desert Storm in February 1991.

AP Photo digitally altered by Evan Wysong.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans; their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



10



42



48



52



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Rick Monday snatches an American Flag from two would-be flag burners.

## All-Star Patriotic Hero

I, ALONG WITH MANY other Americans, was overjoyed that the House of Representatives passed the amendment to protect the American Flag. Let's hope and pray the Senate does the same.

In August's "Flag News" there was a picture of Rick Monday of the Chicago Cubs saving our flag from burning. I had never seen nor heard of this before and cannot understand why more wasn't made of Monday's gallant respect for our national symbol.

When an Olympic contestant can throw his medal away in a flagrant show of disdain for this country and then become a national hero, it seems to me that something in our thinking is way out of whack. Monday is a hero, and from this day forward I will always remember his name and what he did.

— Gloria Memmola  
West Long Beach, N.J.

## Fielder's Greatest Play

THANKS FOR THE PICTURE of Rick Monday snatching the flag away from intended desecration.

I watched the game on TV and was thrilled when I realized what was happening. To Rick Monday, wherever you are, thanks for saving Old Glory from this heinous act of desecration. You are a real patriot. America needs more people like you.

— Lawrence Bookheimer  
Fayetteville, Pa.

## The Emotion of the Flag

THERE IS NO WAY to express the feeling for our national flag to someone

who has not experienced the feeling that you are overcome with when you hear the playing and singing of our National Anthem as our precious red, white and blue is raised with all its glory. It is the tingle in your back that you feel as you visualize Francis Scott Key writing those magnificent words as he watches the bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry. It's the feeling of peace you derive as you stand on a parade field, listening to the band while you present arms as Old Glory is being lowered for the day. The Stars and Stripes is the most recognized symbol around the world, standing for strength, freedom, equality and justice; and, as a beacon of hope for all not fortunate enough to live in America.

I join millions of others in urging the passage of a constitutional amendment to protect our flag, as the national monument that it is, from desecration. The proposed statute will not withstand a constitutional challenge with the Supreme Court's current composition, and it is foolish to believe otherwise.

— Marion N. Mickelson, Florala, Ala.



Democratic Senators Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad of North Dakota.

## Ashamed of Senators

WATCHING THE PAST few months, I've noticed you've done a tremendous job with articles on the flag amendment.

However, I read with shame, disgust and embarrassment about the votes of the two senators from North Dakota (Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad) who consistently oppose the Flag Amendment. As a native of North Dakota, I spent the first 23 years of my life there. I can assure you that the values I learned in that great state differ greatly from the values these two now demonstrate. It is quite obvious neither of them has served in the military or appreciates the honor of serving this country under such a beautiful symbol.

Watching Old Glory pass before me

while on foreign soil gave me a chilling, yet humble feeling of honor knowing it represented the greatest country in this world, of which I was a part. It is a reminder of the many who fought and died for the values upon which our nation was born. It is those values, which are now being objected to by the senators from North Dakota.

I am ashamed to be associated with them by heritage. The people of North Dakota deserve greater representation than what these two can offer. My only hope is that they be voted out of office.

— Cal Hetzler, San Antonio, Texas

## Modern-Day Holocaust

ON THE QUESTION "Should partial-birth abortions be banned?" ("Big Issues," August) Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, came up with that same phony justification for murdering babies and to keep it legal. When she writes, "Despite any arguments to the contrary, the law still maintains that a woman has the ultimate right to choose." In other words, the woman has the right to do with her body what she wants. I'm no lawyer, but my common sense tells me that if that were true then taking drugs, like cocaine or pot, and prostitution would be legal since that would also come under the definition.

Abortion isn't right and a question of a freedom, but is a Holocaust that

## WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

The American Legion Magazine welcomes letters concerning articles that appear in the publication. Letter writers are also encouraged to submit photographs of themselves for possible publication with their letters. Be sure to include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

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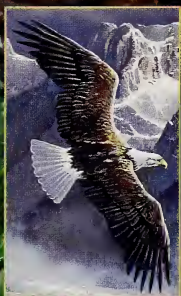
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**THE FRANKLIN MINT**

people like Jackson Lee want to keep legal in order to correct a "mistake" or "momentary indiscretion" or to select a particular sex of the baby. All the abortionists' excuses are a crock. The murders and exterminations of Jews, Gypsies and other "undesirables" are no different than the murder and exterminations of unwanted children.

— Armin Feger, Muncy Valley, Pa.

## Credit Due Veterans

SHORTLY AFTER reading the article, "Veterans urged to press for adequate VA funding," (August) I watched a TV newscast. On the same newscast the reporter announced two conflicting realities. On one hand he announced the federal government is cutting back on veterans' benefits. On the other hand the reporter was exuberant over the ongoing construction of a multi-billion dollar space station. Elected officials and elected legislators don't comprehend that the space station wouldn't be in the process of construction without the sacrifices, wounds and deaths of veterans. They simply do not get it.

— Charles J. Sippel  
Horseshoe Bend, Ark.



Staubach's proud parents, Bob and Elizabeth, admire their Naval Academy graduate in 1965.

## Life Hall-of-Famer

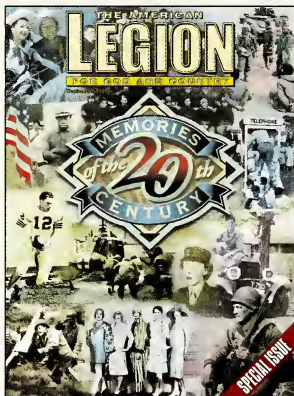
A COLLEAGUE faxed me a copy of your article entitled "Cowboy Inherits Mother's Faith (September)." I read every word of it.

As a Staubach employee who works closely with Roger, I was truly moved. I see Roger regularly; he's in the office and works as a real estate executive every day. I've interacted with him for five-plus years; yet I was not aware of the moving personal stories you covered. Thank you for sharing.

I am always touched by Roger's sincerity and genuineness. He is truly a "Life" Hall of Famer. Roger's unselfish, benevolent, caring personality shines through in his every endeavor. In the movie, "As Good as it Gets," Jack Nicholson so succinctly said to Helen Hunt, "You make me want to be a better man."

Roger Staubach does just that to those of us who are fortunate enough to work with him.

— Betty Johnson, Dallas, Texas



September issue of *The American Legion Magazine*.

## Everyone Has a Story

THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE is the best I have read since I have been a member. I read every story word-for-word. It makes me sure of the fact that America is made up of more than 250 million people, and each one has a story to tell.

These people, just the everyday Joes, make up America. I'm glad to see their stories were told instead of the million-dollar rock stars.

I will store this issue away, and when I need to get my thoughts straight on the good old U.S.A., I'll get this issue out and read it again front to back.

— William Richardson, Danville, Va.

## G.I. Experiences

TODAY I RECEIVED the September issue of *The American Legion Magazine*. I was pleasantly surprised to read of the experiences of several GIs. I have read most of the letters and intend to read again those same letters. This issue is truly the best I have ever received over the past 46 years as a member of Post 11, District 8 of The American Legion.

— Bud Graf, Lancaster, Ohio

## Congress Has the Power

A RIGHT-HAND SALUTE to Lee H. Hamilton for his article, "Preserving the War Powers Act," in the July issue. The era in which this presidential responsibility was promulgated is history.

The Cold War, at least for now, is over. The era of the "suspiciously political battle-of-the-month" is upon us. The real intent of the War Powers Act must be kept crystal clear.

It is incumbent on both the executive and legislative branches to recognize that the Constitution places the power to declare war on the shoulders of Congress. Anything less will be an abuse of power by the executive branch. This action would no doubt further deplete our already limited material and human resources.

— Edward M. Budelis, Eldersburg, Md.

## Educating Our Enemies

I KNOW WE have some fools in our government, but Cliff Kincaid's August "Washington Watch" pointed that out when he wrote about "Seeing Red at West Point."

It would be great to learn who had the authority to allow the son of a former member of the communist Khmer Rouge movement in Cambodia to attend and graduate from West Point on our tax money.

Further insult to us is that Hun Manet will remain in New York for more education, and at whose expense?

Why is it that we seem to have people in our government who would rather educate our enemies than the children of American vets?

— W.D. Hood, Heber Springs, Ark.



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# Legionnaires Will Fight For What's Right

**T**he theme for this year's National Convention was "Fight for What's Right!" That is what I intend to do as your National Commander. Legionnaires know what it means to fight for what's right. We fought for what is right on active duty and we have continued to do so as veterans. Fighting for what's right today means renewing that pledge and acting upon it.

Take, for instance, The American Legion's support for the Flag Protection Amendment. This is not about taking something away. This is about giving something back. It's about restoring respect for those who fought, and sometimes died, under that flag. It is about restoring respect for our children who recite – or at

that flag desecration was abhorrent, enacted laws to punish such activity. Since *Johnson*, 49 state legislatures have petitioned Congress to return to the states the authority the Supreme Court took away.

Congress, however, has ineptly attempted to do the job itself. And so, after a decade of court-authorized flag burning, the battlefield is the U.S. Senate and the battle is stalled by two senators from North Dakota, clinging to the legal fiction that flag desecration can be prohibited without amending the Constitution.

The Senate, by refusing to bring the amendment to a vote, is thumbing its nose at the very states the senators represent.

Remember that U.S. senators were elected by their state legislature until 1916. Remember, too, that 49 state legislatures are still waiting for the Senate to answer their 10-year call for action. Would the question have gone unanswered for a decade if the senators were still accountable to the state legislatures?

America deserves a Senate vote on the Flag Protection Amendment and America deserves it now. As Legionnaires, we must fight for what is right by calling our senators and pushing for an immediate vote.

And while we're at it, we should tell them it is time to end the crisis in military readiness.

Over the last seven years more than 700,000 active-duty service members have been cut. The reserves are 293,000 persons weaker. Four aircraft carriers are gone, along with 20 Air Force and Navy air wings comprising 2,000 combat aircraft.

The Pentagon's goal is to be ready to fight and win two major conflicts simultaneously. Yet many military strategists tell us the United States is not prepared to fight even one Gulf War-size conflict. The Army, Navy and Air Force are unable to meet their recruiting goals. This is hardly surprising, consider-



National Commander Alan Lance

ing that we have troops who need food stamps to feed their families. It's wrong when one can obtain better educational benefits from serving in Americorps than from sweating in the Marine Corps.

The exodus of mid-rank enlisted personnel and officers compounds the crisis. The exodus is driven by low pay and accelerated by the ever-increasing pace of operations, up some 300 percent in recent years. Our military people are shuffled from country to country (currently 133) with hardly the time to see their families between missions. Add to this picture a Congress with fewer veterans in our history and it is no wonder so many of our service men and women think nobody cares.

Well, it's time they know that somebody does care. And that somebody is The American Legion!

And after you've told your senators it is time to do what is right for our active-duty personnel, remind them to do what is right for veterans. Tell them the VA budget is a national disgrace. Tell them we need a G.I. Bill of Health which will allow all veterans and their dependents to have access to the VA health care network. Again, fellow Legionnaires, it's up to us to fight for what's right.

*"It's wrong when one can obtain better educational benefits from serving in Americorps than from sweating in the Marine Corps."*

least *should* recite – the Pledge of Allegiance each day in classrooms all across America. It is about restoring respect for this great nation.

If we are going to win this battle, we must understand the battlefield and remember how we got here.

For the first 201 years of our union, the states, not the federal government, protected the honor of our flag. Until *Texas vs. Johnson* in 1989, 49 states, having concluded







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*Legionnaires set sights on the future at the 81st Convention in Anaheim*

# Morale Is High!

**By Layne Cameron**  
Assistant Editor

**N**ATIONAL Commander Butch Miller repeated his favorite catch phrase, "Morale is high!" again and again at the 81st National American Legion Convention in Anaheim, Calif. Judging by the response it generated, he was right.

National leaders such as Vice President Al Gore, VA Secretary Togo West, Sen. John McCain, Sen. Orrin Hatch, Sen. Bob Smith and others maintained the upbeat tempo as they delivered stirring speeches. Music enhanced the mood as the All-American Boys Chorus and organist Peter Ole nearly brought down the house with their patriotic music.

**Working For Veterans.** One of the first speakers, VA Secretary Togo D. West Jr., brought home some of the issues members of the Legion have



Old Glory was out in force at the 81st American Legion National Convention parade.



The All-American Boys Chorus of Santa Monica, Calif., led by Ari Miller, performed a John Philip Sousa medley and "God Bless America" during opening ceremonies.





California's 23rd District Choral Singers performed at the National Convention.

talked about the other "right" things that are happening within the VA system this year: adding 89 new community outpatient clinics, increasing the number of personnel who process claims and opening four new national cemeteries. "Talk about who gets the credit - Congress, the administration, it doesn't matter," said West. He bolstered his point by quoting Jesse Holmes, a wounded Civil War veteran, who said, "If we do not care who gets the credit, we can achieve a lot."

Recognizing the special bond that holds the Legion together in the service of America, West tied it in with the reason this country is so great. "The success of this nation in peace is because of the sacrifice of veterans in war. ... I want to offer up my personal thanks for the fact that we could raise our two daughters in security - secure in their freedom and their opportunities. You've earned the support and gratitude of the American people."

**Presidential Hopeful.** McCain, who is actively courting veteran support for his presidential bid, criticized the administration's defense policies. "After six years of severely underfunding the military,

the president reversed himself and proposed increasing the defense budget. Once again, however, his rhetoric far exceeded his actions," the Arizona Republican said. "Please don't mistake these observations for a partisan tirade," McCain continued. "Congress deserves as sharp a rebuke as the president."

"While many Republicans and Democrats in Congress recognize our problems and wish to devote greater resources to the military, they often cannot restrain the oldest of all congressional afflictions, an all-consum-



National Commander Butch Miller salutes the delegation of the 1999 American Legion National Convention.

been working on so diligently over the past year.

He stuck his neck on the line by making a prediction: "When the smoke clears, there will be at least a billion or more dollars added to the budget of the VA. A budget is about a nation's priority and this is the right thing to do."

West, a member of Idaho Post 113,



Members of the Honor Guard of John M. Armitage Post 684, Ridgecrest, Calif., honor POWs and MIAs during the empty chair ceremony.

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National Commander Butch Miller presents the William Randolph Hearst Award to the Department of Ohio for performing the most outstanding Americanism accomplishments.



National Commander Butch Miller presents the James V. Day Good Guy Award in honor of Tommy Lasorda. Receiving the award are Laura Lee Goldberg, Lasorda's daughter, and her husband, Bill Goldberg.

ing addiction to pork-barrel spending."

In spite of mistakes made in Washington, McCain was not pessimistic. "Veterans demand of their health-care system exactly what their country demanded of their service: excellence and commitment.

"We have let you down, and we have let down the men and women who wear the uniform today. And I pledge to continue to do all I can to ensure that our commitments to our veterans are honored — no matter what office I am privileged to hold."

**Legion Homecoming.** Speeches by Gore and Hatch illustrated some of the differences in positions between Democrat and Republican presidential hopefuls. Gore, a member of Tennessee's Post 57, called the Convention a homecoming for him. "My dad was a member of The American Legion," said Gore. "My uncle, Whit LaFon, has been active in The American Legion all his life. He is a past National Executive Committeeman and past Tennessee Department Commander. And he's here."

With introductions out of the way, Gore brought up his experience in Vietnam. The vice president said he knows firsthand how important it is to take care of troops who are sent into harm's way. "Veterans' issues are not just policy to me," Gore said. "It is a personal and moral standard."

Tailoring his speech for the audience, Gore hit three major points close to veterans' hearts: a strong national defense, quality of life and tending to veterans' needs.



National Commander Butch Miller presents the Garland D. Murphy Jr. Award to Past Department Commander Lawrence Strange of Florida for the highest contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation as Udie Grant, president of the foundation, looks on.



National Commander Butch Miller presents Jim Jacobs, owner of Jacobs Construction in Lemont, Pa., the Employer of the Year Award for hiring veterans as Economics Chairman John Brieden stands by.

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**Presidential hopeful Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah,** said that in the coming year he hopes to pass the flag-protection amendment, lower taxes and bolster defense spending.



**Rep. Edward Royce, R-Calif.,** welcomed delegates to the convention and stressed the debt owed to veterans and the importance of not forgetting them in their hour of need.



**Vice President Al Gore** quoted a story which appeared in *The American Legion Magazine* which "rang so true to me: 'A veteran takes pride in the freedom of others.'"

He cited his advocacy toward military forces, demonstrated by his vote in favor of the Gulf War in 1991. He went as far as offering an "iron-clad commitment" in maintaining a strong force for peace and freedom if he's elected president.

"We must honor this simple principle, 'Let's never ask our servicemen and women to do what they have not been equipped to do,'" said Gore. "Let us match their courage with armor. Let us always equip them to do what we ask."

Gore's plan to improve quality of

life for soldiers, sailors and airmen includes upgrading and replacing old equipment, barracks and family hous-

A final resting place was another quality-of-life issue Gore touched on. New veterans' cemeteries are being

opened in Dallas, Cleveland and Saratoga, N.Y. According to Gore, this is the largest expansion of the national cemetery system since World War II.

Discussing benefits afforded an easy transition to address

Social Security. "I'll be damned if I'm going to allow it to be cut or weakened or taken away," said Gore. In his estimation, the budget surplus should be used to save Social Security, strengthen Medicare and pay off the national debt.

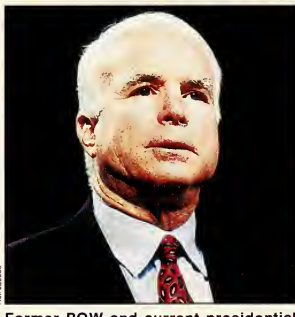
***"Although we take the oath and the pledge in the presence of Old Glory, it is not the colored cloth; it is the Constitution that is in our hearts."***

*— Patrick Brady, Chairman of Citizens Flag Alliance*

ing. He also talked of the proposed military pay raise — possibly the largest since 1982. Gore pledged to uphold veterans' rights. "Let's face it, we don't give our veterans anything. You've earned it — with sweat, courage, blood and sacrifice."



**VA Secretary Togo D. West Jr.** addressed key Legion issues in his speech to the delegation.



**Former POW and current presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.,** criticized the current defense policies while pledging to honor all veterans.



**Chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance Patrick Brady** urged the crowd to get involved in the flag-protection process.



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# It Never Rains In Southern California

*The Legion glistened as members and VIPs paraded through the sun-drenched streets of Anaheim*

THE OLD SONG LYRIC certainly rang true for The American Legion Convention Parade. Celebrating the warm, dry weather, Minnesota Legionnaires decided to start the parade party early.

Actually, the 9th District Band from northwestern Minnesota has a tradition of getting a headstart on parade day. The band played an impromptu concert in the lobby of the Anaheim Hilton before heading over to the parade assembly area. It kept hotel guests clapping and toe-tapping with a Dixieland jazz rendition of "This Land is Your Land."

Stepping up for an endless string of clarinet solos was the band's founder, 89-year-old Herschel Lysaker. "We've been doing these concerts since the band

was formed in 1929," said Lysaker, who hasn't missed a Convention since. Over the years, the 55-piece band has played wearing everything from bib overalls to uniforms which they donned for this year's parade.

Band members have moved to all parts of the United States, yet they come together every year for the Convention. Listening to the jam session, however, guests hardly noticed the lack of practice.

They glanced toward the sky as they boarded the bus to be shuttled to the assembly area, and smiled knowing their instruments would stay dry this year. The cloudless sky washed away the wet memories of last year's parade - the only one in Legion history to be called off - due to lightning.

At Ponderosa Park, 103 units, the U.S. Army 40th Infantry Division Marching Band, five Legion bands, five high-school bands and scads of Legionnaires fell into formation. In true California spirit, the marchers headed west and into the sunset down Orangewood Avenue.

Neighborhood children and families lined the streets to admire the spectacle filling their suburban street. While some children dove for candy and waved to VIPs and passersby, others volunteered to help. Boy Scouts from local Troops 1506 and 314 aided thirsty marchers by delivering bottles of cold water. "I'm a member of Anaheim Post 72," said Scoutmaster Mike Reetz. "The



American Legion Youth Champions (l-r) Kevin Sladek, Oratorical Champion; Ryan Rippel, Boys Nation President; Crystal Dove, Junior Shooting Sports Champion; and Chad Opel, 1998 American Legion Baseball Player of the Year, participate in the parade.



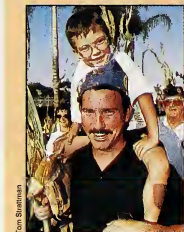
Rear Adm. John L. Scott serves as a deputy grand marshal of the parade.

Post asked if my boys could help, so I have six of them out here with me today."

The three-hour affair wound its way toward the Anaheim Hilton, and each unit was announced as it passed the reviewing stand. Scores of Legion VIPs were seated under the canopy of the reviewing stand. Past National Commanders, Vice Commanders, the Parade Grand

Marshal and Deputy Marshals all snapped salutes for each American Flag passing before them.

Along with the patriotic music echoing through Convention Way, Legionnaires donned costumes associated with their states. The Oklahoma contingent wore Native American headgear while Iowa's waltzed by carrying corn stalks. Idaho marchers wore no costumes, yet received raucous applause as the contingent paraded its candidate for National Commander, Al Lance, past the main stage.



Richie Richardson sits on his father Rusty's shoulders to gain a better view of the crowd.

Two people were particularly pleased with how the grand event unfolded: parade co-chairpersons James and Diana Drake. "It started promptly at 4 p.m., and all of our 'Anaheim in '99' Convention Corporation volunteers did a tremendous job," said Diana Drake. "Watching the units file by made the last 12 months of planning worthwhile."





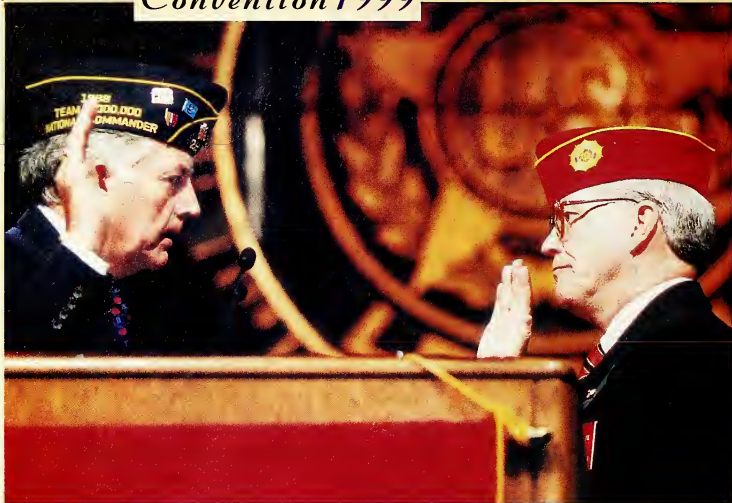
Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Juniors from Kansas carry the flag during the parade.



Members of Maryland's color guard march down Convention Way.



Parade revelers enjoy themselves during the parade.



Al Lance is sworn in by Past National Commander H.F. "Sparky" Gierke.

**Following the Legion's Lead.** Hatch followed Gore and immediately touched on the issue of bipartisanship. The Utah Republican commended the Legion on the ability to bring together soldiers, sailors and airmen for the common good of veterans.

"If the Legion can do that, then Republicans and Democrats should be able to come together in Washington," said Hatch. The Senate, Hatch said, has set aside \$2.9 trillion from a projected surplus to save Medicare and Social Security and to pay off our national debt.

**Instilling Legion Values.** The senator praised The American Legion for "working to uphold the very fundamental values which I have tried to make the centerpiece of my Senate career." Hatch addressed military readiness, saying that nearly eight years of neglect has taken its toll.

He said Army recruitment is coming up 8,000 short this year; the Air Force needs 1,000 more pilots; the Navy can't deploy ships due to critical skill shortages; and one-third of pilots are turning down aviation continuation pay – a bonus as high as \$100,000 – and moving

into the private sector.

"Military personnel don't seek wealth, but they do seek pay for service and risks," noted Hatch.

"Military pay comparability with civilian equivalency has not been achieved since 1982. A record number of military families are on food stamps, and that is deplorable."

According to Hatch, Ronald Reagan was able to build military spending to 6.2 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. This year, military spending will be down to 3.2 percent



Legionnaires show their support for National Commander Al Lance prior to his election.

with a projection of another drop to 2.9 percent.

"It took us years to convince the Clinton/Gore administration that the threat was not 15 years away, but was actually much closer," said Hatch.

Legionnaires know Hatch as an ardent supporter of the flag-protection amendment. He has sponsored the measure in the Senate and will continue to support it. "We are so close to passage," noted Hatch. "Each time we have been beaten back, but only by the smallest minority. Like our fore-



National Commander Al Lance celebrates his election with his wife, Sherry, daughter, Lisa, and son Luke by his side. Another son, Alan Jr., was not in attendance.



bears, we will press on until we are victorious.”

Hatch closed with a look into the future. When The American Legion gathers in Milwaukee for the 82nd Convention, “I hope to report that we have passed the constitutional amendment, lowered taxes and have bolstered defense spending. “These will be my priorities for the coming year.”

**Call to Action.** One patriot knows firsthand the dedication needed to gain passage for the flag-protection amendment. Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady (USA-Ret.), chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance, has always been warmly embraced by the Legion.

As it stands now, the amendment was passed in the House of Representatives and is slated for action in the 106th Congress.

“All of you who have helped pay the price for our freedom once took an oath to protect and defend our Constitution against all enemies,” said Brady. “And every day millions of Americans take that same oath when they pledge allegiance to the flag. Although we take the oath and the pledge in the presence of Old Glory, it is not the colored cloth, it is the Constitution that is in our hearts.”

Brady inspired the crowd to action, not by raising his voice, but by using genuine feeling and logic for the issue which he is most passionate about. Brady said we have squelched our foreign enemies and kept Old Glory flying proud. Today’s enemies, he warns, aren’t wearing camouflage and carrying weapons; these enemies instead wear black robes and expensive suits. Bunkers have been replaced by courtrooms, classrooms and newsrooms. And the casualties are families and all Americans who are working for what is right.

It comes as no surprise that Brady firmly believes these enemies can be defeated. “The enemy these elite fear most is an informed, alert, active majority,” said Brady. “A victory for an amendment would be a devastating defeat to these elitists. It would change the battlefield from courtrooms to living rooms and start a slippery slope, which could return to the people their Constitution.”

Brady believes the Supreme Court has the right to make a mistake. “We have an obligation to correct their mistakes,” concluded Brady. “Let’s send a



Newly elected National Commander Al Lance and newly elected Auxiliary President Elizabeth Stewart celebrate their victories.

message to those who mess with our Constitution that we will not allow it anymore.”

**Questions and Concerns.** Sen. Bob Smith, I-N.H., followed suit and demonstrated his support for the flag-protection amendment. He held up a \$20 bill and asked, “If the flag is considered merely a piece of cloth, why then is this not considered just a piece of paper?” Point made, Smith went on to question a plethora of other actions which has him perplexed.

Firing them off in rapid succession, he addressed the issues of Iran and Iraq still developing weapons of mass

destruction; North Korea testing missiles over the Sea of Japan; and China threatening Taiwan while being able to purchase targeting systems from U.S. companies.

The POW/MIA issue is of particular importance to Smith. The senator, who serves on the U.S./Russian POW/MIA Commission, said, “We do not have the fullest possible accounting of our POWs and MIAs from the Korean and Vietnam wars and even World War II. You’re being misled when you’re told these communist nations are fully cooperating. Why should we normalize relations with Hanoi and give up our leverage?”



Past National Commander John Geiger administers the traditional swapping of the cap with the newest Past National Commander, Butch Miller.



Foreign Relations Commission Chairman W.M. "Bill" Bishop, left, and National Security Commission Chairman Allen L. Titus honor POWs and MIAs with the traditional empty chair ceremony.

Smith continued his barrage of questions when he turned his attention toward budgets. "It doesn't take an accountant to see the flaw of giving \$18 million to the International Monetary Fund while veterans are sleeping on grates in cities like Washington, D.C. Spending money

for veterans in need is more important than spending millions for the National Endowment for the Arts," noted Smith.

**Fond Farewell.** In his convention report, National Commander Butch Miller congratulated the founders of

The American Legion for creating an "enduring, values-based foundation upon which millions have built for more than 80 years."

Miller spoke of meeting, during his year of stewardship, individuals such as Bill Brown "who have made The American Legion the positive force that it is."

"Bill is 69 years old, but he's not ready to ride a rocking chair and watch the world go by," Miller explained. "Every day he takes nitroglycerin pills and then goes to work for his American Legion" as assistant sergeant at arms in the Department of Georgia.

Miller met Brown on a hot summer day in Georgia, "pounding on doors, stopping people on the streets, looking for veterans to start a new Legion Post." Why does Brown do what he does? "I love this organization," he told Miller. "I love The American Legion." Miller called Brown a "metaphor for all of us, because we love America, and together we just keep getting good things done."

Among Legion accomplishments in the past year, Miller cited the raising of one million dollars for the National World War II Memorial; support for the troops that helped active GIs obtain a 4.8-percent pay raise; the contribution of nearly \$600,000 to The American Legion National Emergency Fund; pressuring the VA so that elderly or severely disabled veterans would not be removed from VA nursing facilities; lobbying for an increase in VA medical funding that led to a \$1.7 billion addition by the House Appropriations Committee; and pushing for burial honors for any veteran upon request by the veteran's family. This led to a new law which will take effect in January ensuring the Department of Defense will provide a military honor guard whenever possible.

"I'm pleased to report that we're closer than ever to returning to the American people the right to protect their flag from acts of intentional physical desecration," Miller said, pointing out that the House of Representatives passed the flag-protection amendment for the third time, and that the amendment gained one or two supporters in the Senate.



National Commander Miller presents the first-place trophy to the Greater Kansas City American Legion Band.





Members of the Speedway Post 500 Color Guard perform on Edison Field before an Angels baseball game.

The American Legion will continue to fight for a full accounting of all POWs and MIAs, Miller promised. And he said he was proud the Legion has become an "on-line" organization with the cyber participation of 52 Departments, as opposed to 17 at the start of the year.

Membership continues to be a

challenge, Miller reflected. "Every place there is a high school, there should be an American Legion Post," he said. He congratulated Kentucky, Nevada, Alaska, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Hawaii for exceeding their 1999 membership goals. And he lauded Michigan for "thinking out of the box" and

creating 19 new Posts, while revitalizing one on the brink of extinction.

Miller told the Convention, "You and the members of The American Legion and your families are a beacon of hope in a world that is confused, a world whose values are shifting sands, and whose vision of the future is clouded.

"Yet, you are clinging to the principles and values that our Founders built into this great organization. You are passing them on to our nation's young people through our many national, state and local youth programs.

"And every time you reach out, you show someone, somewhere, that we still care; that we, the four million members of The American Legion family, are 'still serving America.'"

#### Greetings, Commander Lance.

Idaho's attorney general will serve as The American Legion's new National Commander – the first Legionnaire from Idaho to serve at this post.

During his acceptance speech, Lance acknowledged he knew as a child there was nobility in serving your country. "I followed those Legionnaires on Memorial Day – those heroes, those ordinary farmers, those



A Legionnaire uses one of the Command Post telephones to talk to senators and voice his concern for veterans' issues and the flag-protection amendment.

Where will you be  
when your grandson gets his  
first taste of the ocean?



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**When diet and exercise are not enough, talk to your doctor about adding ZOCOR.** In a landmark five-year study among heart disease patients with high cholesterol, ZOCOR demonstrated impressive results: fewer heart attacks, fewer strokes or mini-strokes, and 42% fewer deaths from heart disease.

In addition, ZOCOR has been proven to dramatically reduce LDL ("bad") cholesterol while increasing HDL ("good") cholesterol.

**Important considerations:** ZOCOR is a prescription medication, so you should ask your doctor or healthcare professional if ZOCOR is right for you.

ZOCOR isn't for everyone, including women who are pregnant or nursing or who may become pregnant, people who are allergic to any of its ingredients, or anyone with liver disease. Unexplained muscle pain or weakness could be a sign of a rare but serious side effect, and should be reported to your doctor right away. Your doctor may do simple blood tests before and during treatment with ZOCOR to check for liver problems. Be sure your doctor knows about other medications you may be taking in order to avoid any possible serious drug interactions.

To get your free copy of "The Guide to Surviving High Cholesterol," call 1-888-316-3725. Visit our website at [www.zocor.com](http://www.zocor.com).

*Please read the next page for additional information about ZOCOR.*

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# ZOCOR<sup>®</sup>

(SIMVASTATIN)

**PLEASE READ THIS SUMMARY CAREFULLY. AND THEN ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT ZOCOR. NO ADVERTISEMENT CAN PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO PRESCRIBE A DRUG. THIS ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF CAREFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR. ONLY YOUR DOCTOR HAS THE TRAINING TO WEIGH THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOR YOU.**

## USES OF ZOCOR

ZOCOR is a prescription drug that is indicated as an addition to diet for many patients with high cholesterol when diet and exercise are inadequate. For patients with coronary heart disease (CHD) and high cholesterol, ZOCOR is indicated as an addition to diet to reduce the risk of death by reducing coronary death; to reduce the risk of heart attack; to reduce the risk for undergoing cardiac procedures (coronary artery bypass grafting and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty); and to reduce the risk of stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA).

## WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED

Some people should not take ZOCOR. Discuss this with your doctor.

ZOCOR should not be used by patients who are allergic to any of its ingredients. In addition to the active ingredient simvastatin, each tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, iron oxides, talc, titanium dioxide, and starch. Butylated hydroxyanisole is added as a preservative.

**Patients with liver problems:** ZOCOR should not be used by patients with active liver disease or repeated blood test results indicating possible liver problems. (See WARNINGS.)

**Women who are or may become pregnant:** Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus. **Women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely that they will become pregnant.** If a woman does become pregnant while on ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once.

**Women who are breast-feeding** should not take ZOCOR.

## WARNINGS

**Muscle:** Tell your doctor right away if you experience any unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness at any time during treatment with ZOCOR so your doctor can decide if ZOCOR should be stopped. Some patients may have muscle pain or weakness while taking ZOCOR. Rarely, this can include muscle breakdown resulting in kidney damage. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients taking certain other drugs along with ZOCOR, such as the lipid-lowering drug Lipid (gemfibrozil), and other fibrates; lipid-lowering doses of niacin (nicotinic acid); Sandimmune (cyclosporine); itraconazole, ketoconazole, and other azole antifungal drugs; the antibiotics erythromycin and clarithromycin; HIV protease inhibitors; and the antidepressant nefazodone. Interruption of therapy with ZOCOR should be considered if you are going to take an azole antifungal medication, such as itraconazole, or macrolide antibiotics, such as erythromycin. Patients using ZOCOR along with any of these other drugs should be carefully monitored by their physician. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients with kidney problems or diabetes.

Because there are risks in combining therapy with ZOCOR with the drugs listed above, your doctor should carefully weigh the potential benefits and risks. He or she should also carefully monitor patients for any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly during the initial months of therapy and if the dose of either drug is increased. Your doctor also may monitor the level of certain muscle enzymes in your body, but there is no assurance that such monitoring will prevent the occurrence of severe muscle disease.

If you have conditions that can increase your risk of muscle breakdown, which in turn can cause kidney damage, your doctor should temporarily withhold or stop ZOCOR. Also, since there are no known adverse consequences of briefly stopping therapy with ZOCOR, treatment should be stopped a few days before elective major surgery and when any major acute medical or surgical condition occurs. Discuss this with your doctor, who can explain these conditions to you.

**Liver:** About 1% of patients who took ZOCOR in clinical trials developed elevated levels of some liver enzymes. Patients who had these increases usually had no symptoms. Elevated liver enzymes usually returned to normal levels when therapy with ZOCOR was stopped.

In the ZOCOR Survival Study, the number of patients with more than one liver enzyme level elevation to greater than 3 times the normal upper limit was no different between the ZOCOR and placebo groups. Only 8 patients on ZOCOR and 5 on placebo discontinued therapy due to elevated liver enzyme levels. Patients were started on 20 mg of ZOCOR, and one third had their dose raised to 40 mg.

**Your doctor should perform routine blood tests to check these enzymes before you start treatment with ZOCOR and periodically thereafter (for example, semiannually) for your first year of treatment or until 1 year after your last elevation in dose. Patients titrated to the 80-mg dose should receive an additional test at 3 months.** If your enzyme levels increase, your doctor should order more frequent tests. If your liver enzyme levels remain unusually high, your doctor should discontinue your medication.

Tell your doctor about any liver disease you may have had in the past and about how much alcohol you consume. ZOCOR should be used with caution in patients who consume large amounts of alcohol.

993423(1)(433C)-ZOC-COEN

## PRECAUTIONS

Before starting treatment with ZOCOR<sup>®</sup> (simvastatin), try to lower your cholesterol by other methods such as diet, exercise, and weight loss. Ask your doctor about how best to do this. Any other medical problems that can cause high cholesterol should also be treated.

**Drug Interactions:** Because of possible serious drug interactions, it is important to tell your doctor what other drugs you are taking, including those obtained without a prescription.

ZOCOR can interact with cyclosporine (Sandimmune), itraconazole, ketoconazole, Lipid, niacin, erythromycin, clarithromycin, HIV protease inhibitors, and nefazodone. (See WARNINGS, Muscle.)

Some patients taking lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR and coumarin anticoagulants (a type of blood thinner) have experienced bleeding and/or increased blood clotting time. Patients taking these medicines should have their blood tested before starting therapy with ZOCOR and should continue to be monitored.

**Central Nervous System Toxicity; Cancer, Mutations, Impairment of Fertility:** Like most prescription drugs, ZOCOR was required to be tested on animals before it was marketed for human use. Often these tests were designed to achieve higher drug concentrations than humans achieve at recommended dosing. In some tests, the animals had damage to the nerves in the central nervous system. In studies of mice with high doses of ZOCOR, the likelihood of certain types of cancerous tumors increased. No evidence of mutations or of damage to genetic material has been seen. In one study with ZOCOR, there was decreased fertility in male rats.

**Pregnancy:** Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus.

**Safety in pregnancy has not been established.** In studies with lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR, there have been reports of birth defects of the skeleton and digestive system. Therefore, women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely they will become pregnant. If a woman does become pregnant while taking ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once. The active ingredient of ZOCOR did not cause birth defects in rats at 3 times the human dose or in rabbits at 3 times the human dose.

**Nursing Mothers:** Drugs taken by nursing mothers may be present in their breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, a woman taking ZOCOR should not breast-feed. (See WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED.)

**Pediatric Use:** ZOCOR is not recommended for children or patients under 20 years of age.

## SIDE EFFECTS

Most patients tolerate treatment with ZOCOR well; however, like all prescription drugs, ZOCOR can cause side effects, and some of them can be serious. Side effects that do occur are usually mild and short-lived. **Only your doctor can weigh the risks versus the benefits of any prescription drug.** In clinical studies with ZOCOR, less than 1.5% of patients dropped out of the studies because of side effects. In a large, long-term study, patients taking ZOCOR experienced similar side effects to those patients taking placebo (sugar pills). Some of the side effects that have been reported with ZOCOR or related drugs are listed below. This list is not complete. **Be sure to ask your doctor about side effects before taking ZOCOR and to discuss any side effects that occur.**

**Digestive System:** Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, gas, heartburn, stomach pain/cramps, anorexia, loss of appetite, nausea, inflammation of the pancreas, hepatitis, jaundice, fatty changes in the liver, and, rarely, severe liver damage and failure, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.

**Muscle, Skeletal:** Muscle cramps, aches, pain, and weakness; joint pain; muscle breakdown.

**Nervous System:** Dizziness, headache, insomnia, tingling, memory loss, damage to nerves causing weakness and/or loss of sensation and/or abnormal sensations, anxiety, depression, tremor, loss of balance, psychic disturbances.

**Skin:** Rash, itching, hair loss, dryness, nodules, discoloration.

**Eye/Senses:** Blurred vision, altered taste sensation, progression of cataracts, eye muscle weakness.

**Hypersensitivity (Allergic) Reactions:** On rare occasions, a wide variety of symptoms have been reported to occur either alone or together in groups (referred to as a syndrome) that appeared to be based on allergic-type reactions, which may rarely be fatal. These have included one or more of the following: a severe generalized reaction that may include shortness of breath, wheezing, digestive symptoms, and low blood pressure and even shock; an allergic reaction with swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat with difficulty swallowing or breathing; symptoms mimicking lupus (a disorder in which a person's immune system may attack parts of his or her own body); severe muscle and blood vessel inflammation; bruises; various disorders of blood cells (that could result in anemia, infection, or blood clotting problems) or abnormal blood tests; inflamed or painful joints; hives; fatigue and weakness; sensitivity to sunlight; fever, chills; flushing; difficulty breathing; and severe skin disorders that vary from rash to a serious burn-like shedding of skin all over the body, including mucous membranes such as the lining of the mouth.

**Other:** Loss of sexual desire, breast enlargement, impotence.

**Laboratory Tests:** Liver function test abnormalities including elevated alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin; thyroid function abnormalities.

**NOTE:** This summary provides important information about ZOCOR. If you would like more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist to let you read the professional labeling and then discuss it with them.

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(433R)C





Lynn Masters (Idaho), left, and Martha Yancey (Mo.) took time from the Convention to give blood with the help of Red Cross Assistant Christine Alvarado. The donations will benefit the local community and the Long Beach VA Hospital. Also

awarded during the convention were the National Blood-Donor Awards which went to: Florida (Category I), Massachusetts (Category II), Nebraska (Category III), Tennessee (Category IV) and Rhode Island (Category V).

ordinary bankers ... in silence to the cemetery to remember those who had made the supreme sacrifice," said Lance.

He went on to note, however, that the number of those serving their country is shrinking. The factors involved include budget cuts, declining retention and recruiting, "and shamefully, ... we have far too many military families on food stamps and

Lance pointed out, "But the surplus, if any, cannot be calculated until all the debts are paid." According to Lance, those debts include veterans' health care, deferred compensation and maintaining a strong national defense.

**Youth Potential.** Within the organization, Lance recognized the need to continue to recruit younger members — embracing all generations of veterans. "The World War I veterans did the right thing," said Lance. He said that by taking in the veterans of World War II, "they cast aside the need to be petty ... they took the high road ... and appointed a committee to make recommendations as to how to best help returning [WWII] GIs and veterans who had not yet joined The American Legion."

Lance then asked conventioners to return the favor, imploring them to help "those young, patriotic, brave men and women who are under-

manned and underappreciated."

Lance encouraged everyone to "saddle up once again for America, and we will lead America into the 21st century."

Article design: Kathy Joint

**"Saddle up once again for America, and we will lead America into the 21st century."**

— Al Lance

public assistance."

The announcement came as no surprise to the audience. When soldiers are spread out in 133 countries, yet they have to depend on welfare checks to survive, "it's no wonder we're having a recruiting and retention crisis."

"The people in Washington like to talk about a budget surplus,"



National Commander Al Lance was besieged with autograph requests soon after the election.

# Anaheim Convention Highlights



American Legion color guard units march into the Anaheim Convention Center at the conclusion of the Senior Color Guard Contest held during the National Convention.

## UNITS MARCH TOWARD GLORY

**A**WAY FROM the banquet rooms and podiums of the plenary sessions, the pageantry of the Senior Color Guard Contest carried on a grand and colorful American Legion tradition of excellence, teamwork and discipline.

Here were the results:

**Military Class (Legion):** 1. Henderson-Smith-Edmonds Post 86, Rockville, Md.; 2. Post 500, Speedway, Ind.; 3. Albany Post 40, Albany, Ore.; 4. Patriots Color Guard, Post 29, Glendale, Ariz.

**Military Class (Open):** 1. Pure Heaven, Ames, Iowa; 2. Post 178, Garrett, Ind.; 3. S.A.L. Squadron 77, Easton, Md.; 4. Port City Auxiliary Unit 260, Portage, Ind.; 5. S.A.L. Squadron 148, Baltimore, Md.

**Open Class:** 1. Vanguard American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1, Rockland, Maine; 2. Apple Core Color Guard, Post 370, Louisiana, Mo.; 3. Golden Suns Color Guard, Post 277, Phoenix, Ariz.; 4. Golden Eaglettes Color

Guard, Phoenix, Ariz.; 5. Squadron 277, Post 277, Placentia, Calif.

## FAMOUS DOG PROMOTES CMN

**L**EGIONNAIRES MILLING about the Hilton's lobby during the Convention may have caught an interesting sight. Dr. Randall Lange, a veterinarian from Knoxville, Tenn., was accompanied by Josh — the star golden retriever of the program "Josh and Friends." The doctor and the famous dog were guests during the joint meeting of the Americanism and Children & Youth commissions and part of their parade of stars.

Along with the likes of Steve Young, quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, and Mary Lou Retton, Olympic gold medalist, Dr. Lange and Josh are part of the Children's Miracle Network "Parade of Champions."

During their presentation, they provided a brief overview of their program which is designed to help children overcome fears associated

with surgery. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of their stuffed dog and children's book will benefit local children's hospitals.

CMN's Director of Associations LaMar Williams updated attendees on the Legion's contributions. Last year, the Legion family raised \$250,000 for local children's hospitals.

"Our partnership with CMN is a natural for the Legion family," said Elmer Fuhrhop, Chairman of the Children and Youth Commission. "It allows us to help children who might not otherwise receive critical medical attention."

## NIXON LIBRARY OFFICIAL SPEAKS

**T**HE VIETNAM WAR would have ended much differently had it not been for Watergate, one of President Nixon's former aides said at the Legion National Historian's luncheon.

John H. Taylor, the executive director of the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation, said Nixon believed the United States could arm and train the South Vietnamese to defend themselves.

"After the communists violated the terms of the Paris Peace agreement, Nixon was unable to get the support he needed from Congress to bomb the North. What changed the complexion of the situation was Watergate," he said.

Taylor, who joined the former president's staff in 1980, was the guest speaker at the luncheon. He told the audience of about 70 that Nixon had inherited the failed Vietnam policy of his two predecessors.

"The second Richard Nixon lifted his hand off the Bible in 1969, he became responsible for 545,000 young Americans," Taylor said. "Two prior presidents and four prior Congresses asked to fund this war. Richard Nixon stayed (in the war) for four years because he believed he could arm and train the Vietnamese to defend themselves." Taylor described Nixon as a "centrist Republican."

Article design: Mary Lawson



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## AWARDS AND ADULATIONS

**C**ONVENTION IS a time to honor those who have committed themselves to excellence. Some of the award winners were:

National Membership Recruiter of the Year – Joseph Chillelli, Covina, Calif., Post 888.

Frank N. Belgrano Trophy (Americanism) – Department of Illinois.

William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy – Department of Ohio.

Ralph T. O'Neil Award – Department of Wyoming.

Garland Murphy Award (Children & Youth) – Department of Florida.

Chapel of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion – National Commander Butch Miller.

The winning Departments for the Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy were: Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia.

The American Legion Fourth Estate Award was given to Jerry Mitchell, *The Clarion Ledger*, Jackson, Miss.

The American Legion Distinguished Service Award was awarded posthumously to Zachary Fisher, Chairman of the Fisher House Foundation.

The National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was Ronald Tookes of the Miami/Dade County Police Department.

## DEPARTMENTS ADD MONEY TO NEF COFFERS

**T**HE NATIONAL Emergency Fund was boosted at the Convention with sizable contributions from several Departments and Posts. The following made contributions to the Fund: Kentucky, \$5,500; Pennsylvania, \$2,060; Pennsylvania Post 109, \$2,000; Vermont, \$9,235; Wisconsin, \$1,050; Arizona Post 42 \$1,000; and Nevada (Fund Day Golf outing involving many Departments), \$565.

## "RHINO" CHARGES CONVENTIONEERS

**F**EW ATTENDEES of The American Legion Extension Institute held during the Convention had an opportunity to nod off – not

with the "World's Happiest Rhino" on the prowl. Legionnaires know the Rhino as motivational speaker Charlie Tyrian. The retired Marine has a knack of spotting sleepy students and involving them in his presentation.

The purpose of the course is to offer Legionnaires a primer on the Legion's history, its programs, policies, development, progress and future goals. The Institute was founded shortly after World War II.

"The goal today, to borrow from a



**Commanding Applause.** Distinguished guests attending the Commander's Banquet were entertained by the crooning of Denise Clemente and quipping of motivational comic Andy Andrews. Clemente, who has performed for the likes of Presidents Reagan and Bush, enthralled the crowd at the Anaheim Hilton with her dynamic singing. Guests were equally impressed with Andrews, who was showered with laughter during his 90-minute performance.

cliché, is to train the trainers," said Herman Harrington, National Internal Affairs Chairman. "The hope is that those sitting in the crowd will go back to their communities and encourage others to take the course."

## POW/MIA ISSUE TAKES PATIENCE

**A**NN BAKKENSEN couldn't keep from crying when she spoke to the members of the POW/MIA Committee. As vice president of the Korean Cold War Family Association of the Missing, she told of the slow, agonizing task of making headway on accounting for servicemen who have been classified as missing in

action or prisoners of war. One of the reasons for the tears is that Bakkensen is still searching for the answer of what happened to her own father who never came home from one of his flying missions.

She got involved in the worthwhile cause after reading an article which listed her father as a Korean War POW interrogated by the Russians. "I was shocked," remembered Bakkensen. "I thought my father died when his F-86 was shot down."

The message the librarian hoped to convey to Legionnaires during her presentation was, "Without advocacy on the grassroots level, nothing will happen on the POW/MIA issue."

According to Bakkensen, the United States/ Russian Joint Commission has been around since the early '90s and is tasked with researching Russian archives, yet has only solved one case. "The Russians are stonewalling," she said. "And our government officials assigned to the committee simply view it as another committee assignment."

## TOMMY LASORDA HONORED

**F**ORMER LOS ANGELES Dodgers Manager Tommy Lasorda received the 1999 James V. Day Good Guy Award. The "Good Guy Award" was established in 1970 by the Past Department Commanders' Club and was renamed the James V. Day Good Guy Award at the 1985 National Convention in honor of Day, who was instrumental in establishing the Past Department Commanders' Club and the original award. The award is presented each year to a person who, despite the time devoted to his or her specialty, feels the need to work for and on behalf of others, and participate in the betterment of society.

Past recipients include actor/ comedian Jackie Gleason, golfers Sam Snead and Arnold Palmer, and Sen. Barry Goldwater.

Lasorda, who was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1997, was named Senior Vice President of the Dodgers in 1998.

During his 20 years as manager of the Dodgers, Lasorda won two World Championships, four National League pennants and eight division titles. He served two years in the military. □



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# 81ST NATIONAL CONVENTION ADOPTS 62 RESOLUTIONS



Participants in the National Convention Parade show their support for protecting the flag from desecration.

## New resolutions express Legionnaires' collective will

*Now, therefore, be it Resolved...*

Program and policy resolutions are The American Legion's lifeblood. They represent the organization's priorities and concerns; they define what we care about and why. Delegates approved 62 resolutions in Anaheim and the following is their handiwork.

### AMERICANISM

Chairman Joseph E. Caouette Jr. (N.H.)

**Res. No. 1 – Constitutional Amendment to Protect the U.S. Flag** – Reaffirms The American Legion's

decade-long mandate to secure constitutional protection for the flag from acts of physical desecration and vows not to abandon this objective before the matter has been presented for deliberation and disposition by the states' legislatures.

### ECONOMIC

Chairman John Brieden (Texas)

**Res. No. 7 – VA Home Warranty Rules** – Opposes elimination of the 10-year warranty and inspection provisions which provide essential protection to veteran homeowners, thereby safeguarding their new home investment during the years when major structural damage is most likely to occur.

**Res. No. 16 – Veterans Employment Opportunities Act** – Urges technical amendments to the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act to replace items omitted from the original format; gives the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) enforcement responsibility; provides redress by the veteran; and further prevents circumventing veterans preference during a Reduction In Force by a federal agency.

**Res. No. 18 – DVETS Residency Requirement** – Opposes any movement to thwart the intent of the law and support retention of the residency requirement for directors and assistant directors of Veterans Employment and Training Service.

**Res. No. 30 – Employment of Veterans in Government Work Force** – Opposes any attempt to degrade, dilute or modify the precedent of job eligibility preference for veterans; and urges the president and governors to reject legislation that would reduce employment opportunities for veterans in the federal or state workforce.

**Res. No. 51 – Disabled Veterans as Priority under**



*The outlook for defense spending has become increasingly bleak and needs immediate and adequate funding to restore front-line military preparedness.*



**Americans with Disability Act** – Urges Congress to enact legislation giving disabled veterans priority in affirmative action as a group within other designated groups for which affirmative action is required.

**Res. No. 54 – Hire a Veteran Week** – Seeks the institution of a national Hire a Veteran Week during the week of Veterans Day in November each year; and urges all citizens – especially hiring authorities – to support the hiring of veterans.

**Res. No. 79 – Recognition of Military Service and Pay** – Seeks legislation requiring federal agencies to take into consideration military experience and military pay history when computing an applicant's starting salary.

**Res. No. 83 – Improved Services for America's Veteran-Entrepreneurs** – Supports any legislative or administrative proposal that will increase federal assistance to America's veteran-entrepreneurs.

**Res. No. 84 – Tax Credits for Certain Employers** – Seeks legislation providing tax credits to any employer who either pays a regular salary to employees called to active duty or makes up the difference between the employee's military pay and civilian salary.

**Res. No. 86 – Revision of VETS Performance Standards** – Seeks a revision of existing Veterans Employment and Training Service reporting requirements for measuring performance standards and for determining compliance with requirements in providing employment services to veterans.

**Res. No. 123 – Job Protection for Veterans Requiring Visits to VA Facilities** – Urges state and federal legislators to adopt provisions to protect, from any employer, any veteran who is required to report to VA facilities for rehabilitation, counseling, evaluation or treatment for any service-connected condition treated by VA.

**Res. No. 133 – Change the Date of "Employ the Older Worker" Week** – Seeks a change in date for the annual observance of Employ the Older Worker Week from the second full week in March to the last full week in September to facilitate coordination and promotion of the event, beginning in 2000.

**Res. No. 134 – Support of America's Older Workers** – Reiterates long-standing advocacy on behalf of America's older workers, and continues support of programs benefiting older Americans.

**Res. No. 135 – Homeless Veterans** – Renews commitment to assist homeless veterans and their families; supports public and private efforts to aid homeless veterans and their families and seeks any legislative or administrative proposal that will provide medical, rehabilitative and employment assistance to homeless veterans and their families.

**Res. No. 184 – VA Loan Guaranty Program** – Reaffirms support for VA's Loan Guaranty Service and its programs; and supports any legislative or administrative action that will improve and strengthen the Loan Guaranty Service's ability to serve America's veterans.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

Chairman William M. Bishop (Alaska)

**Res. No. 2 – Policy on Support to the Republic of Korea** – Urges the U.S. government to provide prompt and effective defense, readiness and security assistance to the Republic of Korea; urges the U.S. government to increase efforts to reduce the North Korean threat of weapons of mass destruction; and urges the U.S. government to continue progress on the Four Party Talks.

**Res. No. 3 – China and Taiwan** – Encourages extensive Congressional investigations of espionage activities by China and technology transfers to China by American corporations, with full disclosure to the American public; opposes the export of any U.S. dual-use technology information and/or equipment to China, and insists the approval authority for all technology exports be returned to the Department of Defense and Department of



**Building and maintaining a strong national defense will require proper funding support from Congress.**

State; and encourages continued sales of sophisticated American weapons systems to the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its self-defense.

**Res. No. 21 – Trade with the People's Republic of China** – Urges Congress to return Department of Commerce restrictions of trade with China to the former standard previously held and urges the United States to drop China from normal trade relations status.

**Res. No. 76 – America's Future** – Urges the U.S. government to adopt a bipartisan national security-foreign policy of "Democratic Activism," promoting democratic values, maintaining adequate military strength to deter or defeat aggression, cooperating with allies, encouraging free and fair trade, and assisting developing nations.

**Res. No. 77 – Principles of U.S. Foreign Policy** – Supports U.S. foreign policy objectives of maintaining peace with freedom while preserving and promoting democracy; and supports 14 specific principles which should be embodied in U.S. foreign policy.

**Res. No. 78 – Chinese Espionage in the United States** – Calls for the U.S. government to take appropriate corrective action to prevent further damage caused to our national security by the theft of technology by China; and urges the U.S. government to take steps to ensure this type of activity, by any entity, will not happen again.

**Res. No. 154 – Support for U.S. Steel Industry** – Supports any and all actions necessary to immediately stop the flood of unfairly traded steel.

**Res. No. 159 – House Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs** – Urges legislation to be introduced in the House of Representatives to create a Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs.

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Chairman Herman G. Hartzington (N.Y.)

**Res. No. 151 – Include Funeral Honors Activity in Consolidated Post Report** – Makes a change in the Consolidated Post Report to include Funeral Honors Activity by American Legion Posts.

**Res. No. 183 – Appreciation to Host City** – Expresses appreciation to key people involved with making the 81st Convention a complete success.

**Res. No. 109 – Postage Stamp Commemorating the Purple Heart Medal** – Encourages the U.S. Postal Service Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to honor combat-wounded veterans by issuing a commemorative first class postage stamp displaying the Purple Heart medal.

**Res. No. 149 – Support for the National Veterans Hall of Honor** – Endorses Mike Dankert of Norfolk, Neb., and the National Veterans Hall of Honor through supportive efforts to preserve our memories in the great wars, without financial obligation by the American Legion.

**Res. No. 158 – U.S. Flag Postage Stamp** – Appeals to the U.S. Postal Service Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to issue and use as its primary definitive postage stamp one which depicts the complete U.S. flag without modification.

**Res. No. 157 – Audie Murphy Postage Stamp** – Recommends the U.S. Postal Service Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee issue a commemorative first class stamp in honor of Audie L. Murphy for his heroic actions while serving the nation and calls for the national organization to take aggressive action to implement this resolution

## NATIONAL SECURITY

Chairman Allen L. Titus (Ind.)

**Res. No. 17 – Nuclear Security** – Urges Congress to return U.S. nuclear weapons programs and defense systems to the highest levels of security and to support these programs with adequate funding.

**Res. No. 42 – Status of Forces Agreements and Military Retiree Use of Overseas Military Facilities** – Urges all future Status of Agreements with host countries to allow for the unimpeded use of all U.S. military facilities by retired U.S. military members and their families.

**Res. No. 60 – Using Military Personnel for Experimentation Purposes** – Opposes any provision authorizing the utilization of servicemembers for human experimentation without their knowledge or consent.

**Res. No. 68 – Military Funeral Honors for Veterans** – Urges Congress to mandate and fund DoD to provide military honors upon request at veterans' funerals; encourages DoD to participate more in military funeral honors; supports designating performance in funeral honors an official mission requirement of the National Guard, and calls for funding to support veterans funerals in all the states; and calls for funding of military honors to be used for this purpose and not for readiness requirements.

**Res. No. 69 – Proposals to Ensure a Strong National Defense** – Urges Congress to implement four specific recommendations with regard to current and future defense budgets; and calls upon the American people to express gratitude to the men and women in uniform and to urge their elected representatives in Congress to support funding for a stronger national defense.

**Res. No. 70 – The Armed Forces Retirement Homes** – Urges Congress to support and fund measures providing for the long-term solvency and viability of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home and the U.S. Naval Home.

**Res. No. 75 – American Battle Monuments Commission Funding** – Urges Congress to provide adequate



**The Veterans Health Administration will rely on Congress to develop long-term solutions to financial assistance.**

# Convention 1999 RESOLUTIONS



**Audie Murphy, America's most decorated hero in World War II, should be commemorated on a first-class postage stamp for his service to the nation.**

funding and human resources to the American Battle Monuments Commission in order to properly maintain and preserve the final resting place of America's war dead located on foreign soil.

**Res. No. 92 – Reserve and National Guard Force Levels** – Urges Congress to build up and maintain the readiness of the Reserves and National Guard units at the levels existing at the beginning of the Persian Gulf War and to modernize them with state-of-the-art equipment.

**Res. No. 94 – Support for Aeronautical Research** – Urges Congress to restore full funding of the NASA budget and mandate 10 percent of NASA's budget for aeronautical research programs; urges Congress to direct NASA to achieve goals announced in 1997 under "Three Pillars for Success," to mandate all military aircraft development and testing be performed within the boundaries of the nation, and to upgrade research facilities; and urges Congress to rectify the serious decline in aeronautics research.

**Res. No. 107 – Support for the Jones Maritime Act and Related Cabotage Laws** – Supports the Jones Act and related maritime cabotage laws critical to America's maritime infrastructure and, therefore, national defense; opposes legislation altering those laws in ways that would be harmful to defense and economic well being; supports the Charter and Build program providing commercially financed and operated ships on long-term charter for logistic support to Naval forces; supports proposals moving truck traffic from coastal highway and train corridors to offshore ships to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions, improve highway safety and strengthen the Merchant Marine; supports budgetary and legislative measures to maintain a robust U.S.-flagged Merchant Marine.

**Res. No. 137 – Military Preparedness** – Condemns the severe erosion of our military preparedness and urges Congress to increase defense spending, continues efforts to convince Congress and the administration that underfunding of our front-line military preparedness needs to be resolved now; and supports efforts to educate The American Legion family and the American people as to the seriousness of the present decline of our military preparedness.

**Res. No. 185 – Contingency Planning for Military Conscription** – Urges Congress and the Selective Service System to develop contingency plans for implementing a fair and equitable conscription system as a source of military manpower in the event recruitment efforts fail, or in the event of mobilization emergencies.

**Res. No. 186 – Expansion of Arlington National Cemetery** – Urges Congress to adopt legislation authorizing the expansion of Arlington National Cemetery and granting the transfer of contiguous land parcels for additional burial sites; and urges Congress to protect the solemnity and integrity of Arlington National Cemetery by continuing to recognize Arlington as the sacred resting place for America's distinguished military veterans.

**Res. No. 187 – Anthrax Vaccination Implementation Program** – Supports the continued monitoring of the progress of the Anthrax Vaccination Implementation Program, urges congressional oversight, and supports outreach to servicemembers, veterans and their families; urges DoD to re-evaluate the program and maintain accurate individual medical records; and urges DoD and VA to provide medical assistance and health care to those participants experiencing vaccination reactions.

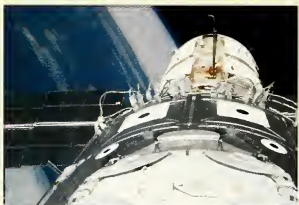
## VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION Chairman Chester F. Stellar (Ohio)

**Res. No. 6 – Special Pension for World War I Veterans** – Seeks legislation to amend Title 38, U.S. Code, to authorize the VA Secretary to pay each World War I veteran who meets service requirements a special pension of \$150 per month.

**Res. No. 29 – Appropriate Care for Gulf War Related Illnesses** – Calls for VA to continue providing appropriate medical examinations and treatment to all veterans of the Gulf War who report symptoms associated with diseases endemic to that war region and calls for VA to expand the registry of Gulf War veterans who seek such treatment.

**Res. No. 58 – Protect Disability Rating After Ten Years** – Seeks legislation to amend Section 110 of Title 38, U.S. Code, to provide that disability compensation evaluations which are continuously in effect at the same evaluation rate be protected after a period of 10 years.

**Res. No. 62 – Financial Assistance for Veterans Health Care and Reduction in VA Health Care Personnel** – Urges Congress to provide adequate funding for VA health care and oppose any further



**The American Legion will urge Congress to restore full funding of the NASA budget, mandate 10 percent of NASA's budget for aeronautical research programs and direct the achievement of goals.**

reductions in VA health care personnel; and urges Congress to place the highest priority on developing long-term solutions to increase the total financial assistance available on an annual basis to Veterans Health Administration.

**Res. No. 87 – Increase in Claims Personnel for VA** – Supports an increase in regional office staffing sufficient to provide timely adjudication of benefit claims and appeals.

**Res. No. 88 – Time Limitations for Filing Applications for Correction of Military Records** – Seeks legislation to amend Title 10, U.S. Code, so as to eliminate all time limitations for filing applications for correction of military records.

**Res. No. 89 – The American Legion Policy on VA Compensation** – Opposes any proposal that would subject VA disability compensation benefits to taxation; opposes any administrative or legislative proposal to dilute or eliminate any provision of the disability compensation program; supports legislation to amend Section 1114, Title 38, U.S. Code, to provide periodic COLA and disability compensation increases; opposes any legislation to automatically index COLA adjustments to Social Security recipients, nonservice-connected disability recipients and death pension beneficiaries; and

seeks legislation authorizing VA disability compensation to veterans having no dependents and who are in nursing homes.

**Res. No. 90 – VA Hospital Bed Capacity and Staffing Levels** – Urges Congress to consider the ramifications of a shortage of VA hospital beds as a result of national military emergency; and urges Congress to evaluate the current availability of beds to sustain contingency support to DoD in the event of national military emergency.

**Res. No. 95 – The American Legion Policy on Agent Orange** – Urges completion of scientific study; supports liberalization of the rules relating to evaluation of studies; calls for monitoring the development of all ongoing research on Agent Orange exposure, and ensuring review committees are composed of impartial members; and calls for availability of examinations and treatment for Vietnam veterans reporting to VA facilities.

**Res. No. 97 – Persian Gulf War Benefits for Those Who Served in Israel and Turkey** – Supports legislation providing authority for the VA Secretary to extend priority health care to veterans who served during the Persian Gulf War in Israel or Turkey.

**Res. No. 98 – Gulf War Veterans Illness** – Encourages VA to devote appropriate resources to alleviate symptoms associated with Gulf War illnesses; encourages VA to fund studies of the health of women Gulf War veterans; encourages VA to implement recommendations regarding research; encourages the scientific community to focus efforts on causes of the illnesses; encourages DoD to not use investigational drugs on U.S. troops without their consent; and encourages VA to offer health care and compensation to disabled Gulf War veterans who suffer from unexplained symptoms.

**Res. No. 106 – Availability of Information to Veterans Organizations** – Urges VA to make available a full spectrum of organization-specific information via computer.

**Res. No. 118 – Entitlement to VA Headstones** – Supports entitlement for all honorably discharged veterans to an appropriate grave marker provided by VA.

**Res. No. 141 – The GI Bill of Health** – Accepts the GI Bill of Health as policy for veterans' health care, which includes nine specific stipulations.

**Res. No. 153 – Enrollment in Health Care System at Time of Separation** – Requests DoD and VA to establish a policy for enrollment in VA health care at the time of separation from active duty.

**Res. No. 171 – Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Services** – Supports any proposal that will allow VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Service to expand and improve its services to qualified, service-disabled veterans.

**Res. No. 179 – Consolidation of VA Home Loan Guaranty Program for the Southwest Region in California** – Finds unacceptable that the loan processing function of VA's Loan Guaranty Program is being totally suspended in California and relocating to Phoenix; and calls for the program for veterans in California, Nevada and Arizona to remain in California.

**Res. No. 181 – Reimbursement to VA by Non-VA and Collaborative Studies Research** – Calls for reimbursement to VA from university and corporate research collaborators for indirect costs associated with using VA's physical and material assets; and calls for local health care research and development programs to negotiate for similar reimbursement rates from private funders of research.

For a copy of the complete text of any resolution, write to:

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# Roster for a New Legion Year

## LEGION SELECTS NEW STARTING LINEUP

### NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



**Milton W. Lobstein**  
Clinton Township,  
Mich.

**M**ilton W. Lobstein of Clinton Township, Mich.,

a Korean War veteran who served in the U.S. Navy from 1951-1955, has been an active member of The American Legion since 1967 when he was asked by a co-worker to join. He is a member of the Police and Firefighters Post 161 in Eastpointe, Mich.

Lobstein's national Legion involvement includes serving on the National Law and Order Committee and the National Counter Subversive Committee where he was Vice Chairman. He was also a member of the Americanism Commission. In Post 161, his service has included 25 years as Finance Officer along with having been Senior Vice Commander and Commander. He served as Commander, Department Executive Committeeman and Department Vice Commander of Michigan.

Lobstein additionally served as Post Baseball Chairman and was the Department's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman.

He will oversee the Midwest Region, which includes Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Texas, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Ohio.

### NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



**L. Harry Easley**  
Ocean Park, Wash.

**K**orean War veteran L. Harry Easley served in the U.S. Air

Force from 1951-1953. He has been a

Legionnaire since 1986 and belongs to the Don R. Grable Post 48 in Ilwaco, Wash.

Easley's involvement with The American Legion includes service as the Post Law and Order Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Second Vice Commander, First Vice Commander and Commander. Within the Department, he was the Law and Order Chairman, Department Vice Commander and Commander.

Nationally, he served on the Civil Defense Preparedness Committee and acted as an Alternate Executive Committeeman. He also worked with the Membership, Employment and Parade Convention Committees.

Departments covered in the Western Region by Easley include: Alaska, Hawaii, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Mexico, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, the Philippines, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

### NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



**Robert D. "Buster" Skallerud**

Madison, Minn.

**R**obert D. "Buster" Skallerud of Madison, Minn.,

a Korean War

veteran, served in the Army from 1951-1953. He has been an active Legion member since 1953 and belongs to the Lacqui Parle Post 158 in Madison.

Skallerud served on the national level in the Membership, Employment and Parade Convention Committees. He served in all of the key offices at Post 158, held additional positions in county offices and just completed a year as Department Commander for Minnesota. He additionally served as Vice Commander and Executive Board member in

his Department.

In his hometown, Skallerud is the co-organizer of the Madison POW/MIA Silent March and donates spare time assisting with local Boy Scout programs. He has also served as a member of the County Fair Board for 12 years.

The Central Region includes Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

### NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



**James F. Fraughnaugh**  
Birmingham, Ala.

**J**ames F. Fraughnaugh, a Vietnam veteran, served in the Navy from 1957-

1978 and has been in The American Legion since 1979. He is a member of the B.W. Howell Post 171 in Birmingham, Ala.

Fraughnaugh's Post Legion offices included Adjutant, three-time Commander, Judge Advocate and Finance Officer. In the Alabama Department, Fraughnaugh has been Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Commander. Nationally, he has served on the Americanism Council as Vice Chairman. He has also served on the National Security Commission, Civil Defense Preparedness Committee, National Foreign Relations Commission, Internal Affairs Commission and *The American Legion Magazine* Commission.

Fraughnaugh continues to assist those less fortunate by acting as chairman of his Post's VA Caravan, providing transportation to a nearby Veterans Affairs hospital. The Southeast Region includes Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.



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*Domenic Lombardi, 32nd Inf. Regt.*

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*Boris Robert Spiroff, US Army (Ret)*

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*Wesley T. Parks, 5th Air Force*

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*Chap. Frank Griep, 1st Cav. Div.*

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### NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



**Robert F. Neville**  
Southold, N.Y.

**V**ietnam veteran Robert F. Neville served in the Army from 1964-1967 and

has been a Legion member since 1970. He is a member of the Griswold Terry Glover Post 803 in Southold, N.Y.

Neville has led his Post as Commander, Adjutant, Vice Commander, Service Officer and as a member of the Executive Committee. Within the New York Department, he has been Commander and Vice Commander. Nationally, Neville has been a member of the Foreign Relations and Legislative Committees.

His Northeast Region includes Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

### NATIONAL SERGEANT AT ARMS



**Charles F. Price, Sr.**  
Boise, Idaho

**K**orean War veteran Charles F. Price Sr. served in the U.S. Air Force from

1963-1991. He joined Capitol Post 136 in Boise, Idaho, in 1987.

Price served on the Americanism Commission prior to being the National Sergeant at Arms. Additionally, he has served his Post as First Vice Commander and Second Vice Commander. In his Department, he has been Area Baseball Chairman, Flag Education Officer and ROTC Officer.

Price devotes time to The American Legion flag education efforts in Idaho. He is currently a member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard.

### NATIONAL HISTORIAN



**Robert W. Mead**  
Friend, Neb.

**W**orld War II veteran Robert W. Mead served in the U.S. Army from 1944-

1946. He joined The American Legion in 1945 and is currently a member of the Ford-Banko Post 183 in Friend, Neb. His father, who signed him up before he was discharged, recruited him for the Legion.

Mead has held the post of Department Vice Commander and has served as Post Commander and County Commander as well as Post Service Officer. He also served as District Commander and Department Historian.

### COMMANDER'S AIDE



**Melvin Napier**  
Boise, Idaho

**A**n American Legion member for 45 years, incoming National Commander's

Aide Melvin Napier initially joined in Liberty, Ind. He later moved to Idaho and is currently with the John Regan Post 2 in Boise.

He has served as Commander at the Post and District level, then Membership Chairman and Department Commander of Indiana. He was additionally Department Adjutant of Idaho from 1983-1999.

Napier began his military career in 1952 as an active duty member of the Air Force working as a meteorologist. He went on to serve at Iwo Jima before being transferred to New York.

Following the service, Napier joined forces with his brother and formed a general contracting business. After working in contracting for 25 years, Napier went on to become an architectural consultant in Indiana.

### NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



**David R. Brown**  
Covington, La.

**B**ishop David R. Brown, a Vietnam veteran, has been a Legionnaire since 1993

with the Robert H. Burns Post 16 in Louisiana. Brown served in the Air Force from 1960 to 1964 as an air traffic controller. From there he attended the Notre Dame Seminary School in New Orleans where he earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1971.

The next 24 years saw Brown working as a social caseworker for the state of Louisiana before his retirement in 1996. He has been Post 16's Chaplain since 1995.

## 1999-2000 American Legion National Leadership

**Commander**  
Alan G. Lance

### Vice Commanders

L. Harry Easley  
James F. Fraughnaugh  
Milton Lobstein  
Robert F. Neville  
Robert D. "Buster" Skallerud

### Adjutant

Robert W. Spanogle

### Judge Advocate

Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.

### Treasurer

George A. Buskirk, Jr.

### Chaplain

Bishop David R. Brown

### Historian

Robert W. Mead

### Sergeant-at-Arms

Charles F. Price

### Commander's Aide

Melvin Napier



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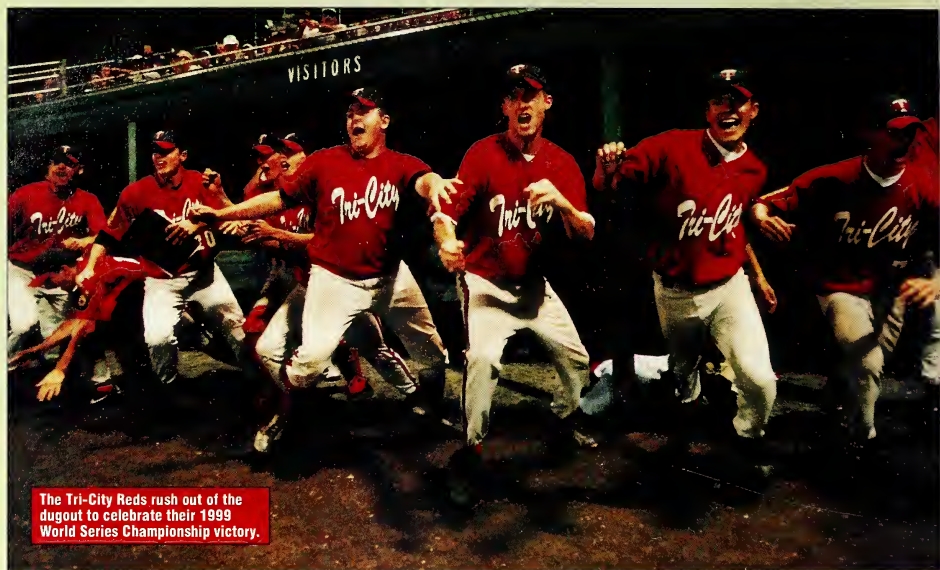
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The Tri-City Reds rush out of the dugout to celebrate their 1999 World Series Championship victory.

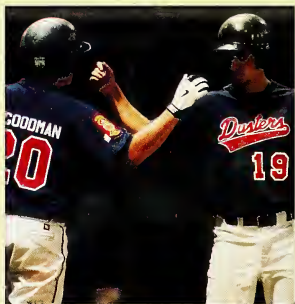
# FULFILLED FIELD DREAMS

*Minnesota bats prevail in 11-5 win at 1999 Legion World Series*

**By Steve Brown**  
Assistant Editor

**O**N AN IDYLIC SUMMER night in August, the national pastime reigned supreme in Middletown, Conn., as American Legion Baseball celebrated the close of its 74th season. The 1999 World Series saw the Tri-City Reds from New Brighton, Minn., take their place as the league's champions with their 11-5 win over the Dusters from Kennewick, Wash.

For a team that last saw a championship in 1983, the Tri-City Reds



Kennewick Duster teammates Marcus Goodman and Willie Kahn share a high-five after a successful at bat.

looked seasoned and professional. Big bats became a decisive factor as the team topped out the field with a .394 overall batting average and six players above .400. With only a 4-3 lead going into the eighth inning, the Reds exploded

with seven runs off three hits and several walked batters.

Winning pitcher Erik Lodgaard stayed the full nine innings, giving up only six hits, one home run and four earned runs. In the end his performance proved more than enough for a victory.

"From the beginning I was pitching my kind of game; I got a couple of good pitches in there, trying to keep it low and away," Lodgaard explained. "I've played in the Legion league since I was 16. I've had a lot of opportunities to play in other leagues, but I think this is the best one to be in."

Lodgaard, who plans to continue playing ball after high school for Iowa Lake Community College, also gave credit to the Tri-City Reds coaching staff. He said, "They are just great; they know a lot, they know what they're doing and they help out whenever they can."

Although the teams stayed neck



and neck for the majority of the game, Minnesota coaches rejoiced at the eighth-inning batting flurry.

"It was a great game and Washington played well for seven innings. It looked like it was going to be tight and go down to the last at bat. It looked like it was going to be a one-run ball game," said Minnesota Coach Jeff Larsen, a three-year coaching veteran who belongs to the Sons of The American Legion Post 513 in New Brighton, Minn. "But we really broke it open in the eighth with some key hits, some doubles and we got a couple of extra runs. Then Erik came in and gave up the one homer but just really pitched an outstanding game."

New Brighton pitcher Steve Grasley made the All-Tournament team and took the Bob Feller pitching award, much to the delight of his parents.

"We've got a great set of coaches and Legion Post 513 really stands behind those kids," said mother Debbie Grasley. "The families are great, too. To get where we've gotten has really been a team effort."

"The kids really enjoy each other, they've got the confidence to come together and not lose any concentration if they get behind a few runs," added father Bob Grasley.

Right fielder Peter Wiedewitsch took Most Valuable Player accolades and made the All-Tournament Team. Celebrating his second year in Legion ball, Wiedewitsch described the experience as "awesome." He cites the "good sportsmanship among all the players"

Men's Hockey Team.

"I really enjoy Legion baseball and coming out here watching my kid from the stands," Schneider said. "I think the Legion does a wonderful job with baseball, especially for the youth. I think they're very lucky the Legion is doing something like this for them and my hat really goes off to them."

said Kessel. "So we decided to stop there and catch the Nationals. The next year, our town had the Legion Regional finals and I was the chief umpire for five games."

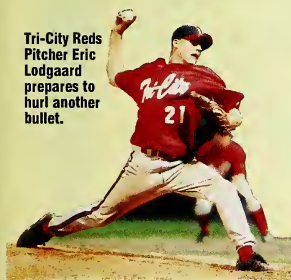
That started the tradition for the Kessels going to the Legion World Series.

Kessel's wife passed away three years ago, and now his daughter drives him to see the games.

"The Posts are all getting older now, and some are starting to fold,"



Clockwise, from left: Peter Wiedewitsch, Tri-City Reds rightfielder, took the Tournament MVP Award; The Minnesota Tri-City Reds form a dogpile on the pitcher's mound in victory jubilation; Tri-City fielder Bill Schneider makes a dramatic catch.



Tri-City Reds Pitcher Eric Lodgaard prepares to hurl another bullet.

as a key component to Legion baseball.

Second baseman and three-year Legion Baseball veteran Bill Schneider additionally made the All-Tournament Team to the delight of his father, Buzz Schneider of the famed 1980 Olympic Gold Medal-winning U.S.

Despite a rain day, a grand total of 19,671 showed up to cheer these young men on throughout the tournament.

Middletown Mayor Domenique Thornton said the Legion World Series was "exactly what we were looking for" for the city.

"It's been fabulous, and the thing that makes me the happiest is that the people who did come said they had a great time and that Middletown is the kind of town that should have American Legion ball," Thornton said.

**Road Warriors.** Some traveled considerable distances to make the games. Eighty-eight year old Chester Kessel made the trip from his hometown of Murphysboro, Ill. A former Park and Recreations director there for 16 years, Kessel hasn't missed a Legion World Series since 1961, when he and his wife pulled over in Hastings, Neb., on their way from California.

"We saw a big sign that said 'American Legion World Series,'"

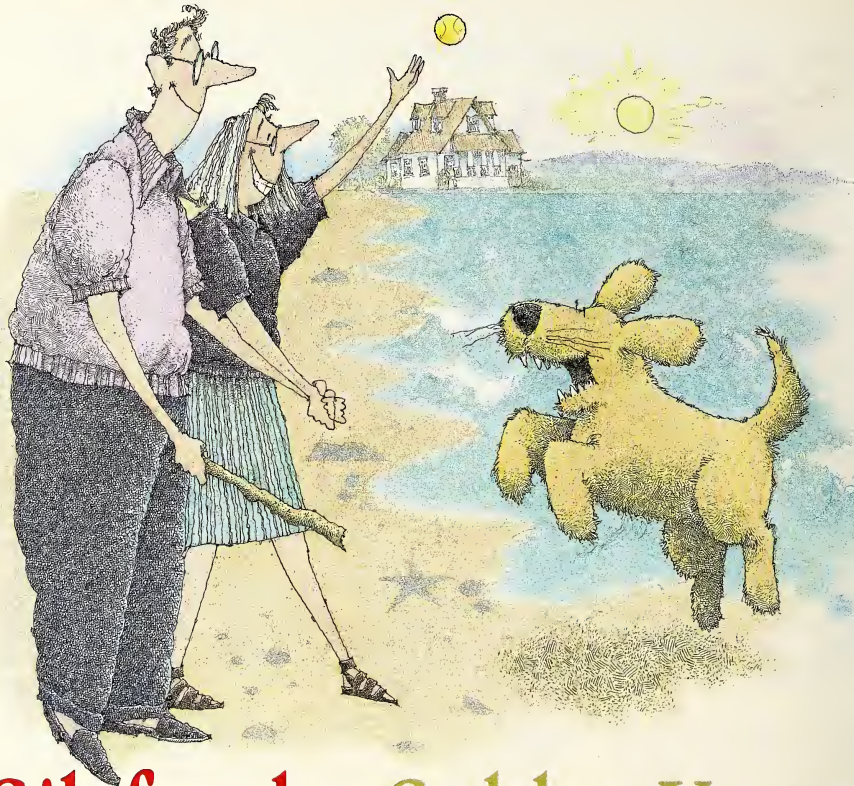
Kessel said, remarking on the increasing losses of World War II-era Legionnaires. "We need some new blood, everybody knows that. But it's going to hang on; there will be Legion ball for many years to come."

Regardless of whether they were winners or losers, most participants and parents expressed gratitude at the opportunity to be involved with the Legion baseball program.

"I think it's the best program in the world," said Cathy Lake, mother of Dusters shortstop Corey Lake. "Most of these kids have gone from playing little league together all the way up to Legion, and it's the most wonderful experience my son has ever had. To make it to the World Series is just frosting on the cake."

The Tri-City Reds will have a shot at another slice of cake at next year's 2000 American Legion World Series in Alton, Ill.

Photos by Chris Fitzgerald  
Article design: Kathy Joint



# Gilt for the Golden Years

*Had you diligently invested \$10 per week instead of purchasing such extravagances as milk and bread, you too could be walking on a beach without a financial care in the world.*

## By Theodore Rickard

**S**OME PEOPLE have carefully planned the financing of their mature years, assuring themselves an adequate income for eternity. These are the people who appear in insurance company and mutual fund ads. They stride long and limber-legged along the beach with their dog, looking insanely happy, bounding around with all sorts of energy. The dog belongs to a younger family down the block, and we will see the same mature folks in a vitamin ad next week. They're professional models, and they are still working.

For every one of these fiduciarily

secure couples, however, there are at least 56.5 — by actual simulated survey — like the rest of us. No sunny beach and bouncy dog in this picture. We are trying to find the car in a supermarket parking lot, which is hub-to-hub full. Our groceries are in two brown bags with a receipt totaling \$103.49.

**Poor Planning.** The truth is that we didn't adequately plan for our retirement. The finger of guilt for our lack of financial foresight can point nowhere but to ourselves. And one wheel of the cart gets caught in a pothole just as spouse finds the car, opens the trunk and also finds the cleaning that was supposed to be dropped off a week ago. There is no sandy beach in this scene.

The mutual fund companies would have us believe that early investment for retirement would have enabled us to snap our fingers at the astounding figures at the end of the grocery tape. And, somehow, somebody else would be lugging the stuff home while we strode the shoreline.

It all has to do with compound interest. Ah, yes, interest earned upon interest earned. The "eighth wonder of the world," according to one of the Rothschilds. It certainly works theoretical wonders on a retirement nest egg. A couple bucks a week and you're a millionaire by the time you're old enough to ponder using hair coloring. The problem, however, seems to be that this miracle applies to paltry sums



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only if invested many years ago. It doesn't work if retirement investment started only last week, the day the cleaning was forgotten in the trunk.

If you want to court a deep depression on the way home with the groceries, try to work out this compound interest earnings thing in your head. Ten dollars a week, beginning in 1955, until the day you retired would add up to more than 40 years. This is 2,080 weeks. Multiply by the 10 dollars, you end up with \$20,800. That's not retirement investment money. In fact, it's barely new car money. But then the miracle of compound interest goes to work. The first \$10 was prudently invested – way back when Ike was in office. Mutual funds talk about the market averaging returns of 12 percent. So take them at their respective words, and the 52 ten spots during the first year have now grown 40 times 12 percent equals 480 percent!

But wait, there's more. The interest on the first year's investment – roughly \$10 per week, multiplied by 52 weeks, multiplied by 12 percent has also grown. And then the interest on that interest has grown for 39 years!

Obviously, we need a larger calculator to pursue this line of thought. Better yet, we need somebody else to figure it out – preferably somebody named Rothschild.

"You're driving right by the cleaners," comes from the passenger seat. You can get an idea of the magic effect of compound interest on your own early retirement savings – had there been such a thing. Your local bank, of course, would be the logical first place to go for such information. But banks no longer have actual human beings working for them, just mannequins inside drive-up windows who say, "Have a nice day."

**Bull Market.** A local mutual fund of fice will, however, have what you're looking for. And it will be especially cooperative if the Dow is up a couple dozen points on the day. The data it'll furnish you pertains, of course, to its own funds. Not the ones that disappeared in the recent financial tsunami of Asian insolvency, but the one that was managed by an uncombed towhead wearing a pocket-protector – the fund that's always up.

What you'll discover is that your seemingly meager investment would now be worth something like the tobacco settlement for the state of New York. If you hadn't fed your in-laws an \$8 turkey and a \$2 bottle of wine that distant Thanksgiving Day you'd be enjoying an affluent leisure today. Your lifemate would be gazing adoringly at you, instead of staring out the windshield at an unseen future. Your dog would be frisking along the sand with you, unencumbered by pooper-scooper or even canine halitosis. If you don't believe the graph from the mutual fund company, just work it out for yourself. The rest of us will wait. By now there's a line at the cleaners, anyway.

*Theodore Rickard lives in Wilmette, Ill. He jests he has been out of work long enough to call himself a free-lance humor writer. This is his first appearance in The American Legion Magazine.*

*Article design: Simon Smith  
Illustration: Jeff Seaver*

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Photo courtesy of Empower America

William J. Bennett is the Co-Director of "Empower America," based in Washington, D.C.

## COMMENTARY:

# Restoring the Shining City on

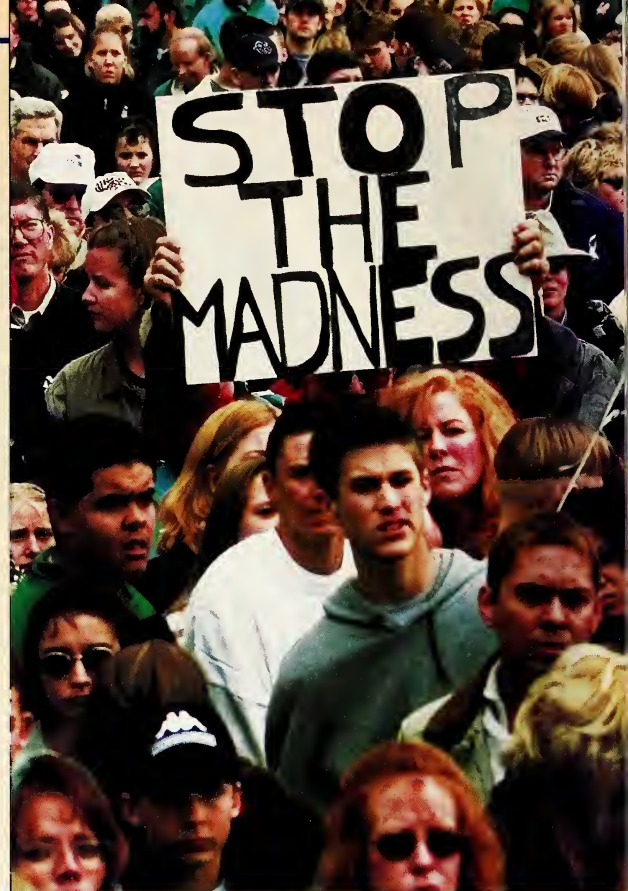
By William J. Bennett

**A** FEW YEARS ago I had lunch with a friend of mine who has written for a number of political journals and who now lives in Asia. During our conversation, the topic turned to America — in particular, America as seen through the eyes of foreigners. He explained to

me, based on his observations, while the world still regards the United States as the leading economic and military power on earth, this same world no longer beholds us with the same moral respect it once did. It no longer sees a "shining city on a hill." Instead, it sees a society in decline, with dizzying rates of crime, family breakup, drug abuse and other social pathologies.

I have an instinctive aversion to foreigners harshly judging our nation; yet

I must concede that some of what they think is true. Despite recent improvement, since 1960 the number of total crimes in the United States has risen 290 percent. During the same time, violent crime has increased 500 percent, and the percentage of births that are out of wedlock has increased 511 percent. In 15 of our nation's largest cities the teenage illegitimacy birth rate is greater than 90 percent. Today, America leads the industrialized world in rates of fatherless fami-



Eric Gaspard

The majority of today's youth lead normal lives and want the violence to end. Here, a participant in a memorial service in Littleton, Colo., makes his message clear.





**Margaret Ensley, president of Mothers Against Violence in Schools, stands with a photo of her son Michael, a victim of gun violence in 1993, during a news conference in Los Angeles.**



**Violent video games award bonus points for direct head shots and have introduced terms such as "first person shooter" to America's younger generation.**

# the Hill

lies, divorce, abortion, teenage births and youth drug use.

These are normally abstractions to most Americans. But then an event like the Littleton, Colo., massacre takes place. America heard a wake-up call when Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris killed 12 classmates and a teacher at Columbine High School. This country had specific questions about the rampage: How did these boys get those guns? What were the adults doing when the boys spent hours building

bombs and drafting murder-assault plans? The country had some deeper, more general questions as well: Who were these boys? Why would they do this? What is wrong with the soil from which they were raised? What, in short, is wrong with America?

Like many Americans, I have spent some time thinking and talking about these questions. Clearly, they involve complex and sensitive issues. But they are issues worth wrestling with; they are issues that demand to be wrestled with. They are the most fundamental issues confronting us today. And I believe that Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., was correct when he said that the central conservative truth of our time is that culture is more important than politics. There is something wrong in our culture, and that error is playing itself out in the political and social landscape.

The fact is that, during the 20th century, America has become a society increasingly hostile or indifferent to concepts like good and bad, moral and immoral, noble and base. Today there is even a debate going on in this country about life and death and whether one is necessarily better than the other. The late Timothy Leary, a leader of the countercultural and drug-legalization movement, got a lot of attention a couple of years ago when he celebrated and advertised his impending death as "the most fascinating experience in life."

Moral indifference might be irrelevant if it were confined to the fringes of American society. After all, human society has always had its cynics. The problem today is that moral indifference has become the standard of some of this nation's most revered, most powerful institutions. It is no longer confined to the intellectual elite. Rather, it permeates much of mainstream society.

Consider American higher education. Princeton University recently hired a man named Peter Singer to teach at its Center for Human Values. Thought by many to be one of the leading thinkers in his field — "applied ethics" — Singer has made a name for himself by advocating the abandonment of "doctrines about the sanctity of life" and by arguing that infanticide and euthanasia are sometimes acceptable since infants, the mentally impaired and some elderly are not truly persons since they lack "rationality, autonomy and self-consciousness."

**Movie Mayhem.** Or think of American popular culture. There are good things in the popular culture, obviously, but there are increasingly horrible things as well. Television, movies and music have moved away from the fare of the 1950s and 1960s to grisly murder scenes, gratuitous sex and nonstop profanity. One of the most successful movies among teenagers during the 1990s was a film called "Scream." Among other things, the film shows a boy being tortured and then disemboweled and a young woman being stabbed repeatedly in her chest. The movie took in more than \$78 million and was called a critical success.

These kinds of things are now a big part of the "entertainment industry" and are bankrolled by some of America's oldest and most respected corporations. "Scream" was produced by Disney's Miramax division. The "Jerry Springer Show" and shock rocker Marilyn Manson come from the Seagram Corporation. When "60 Minutes" broadcast Jack Kevorkian killing another man by injecting him with poison, and when Howard Stern brought his raunchy radio show onto television, the bills were footed by CBS.

Here there needs to be an important qualification: Universities, the popular culture and big business are not solely responsible for America's social degradation. Even in a degraded popular culture, it is still the responsibility of parents to raise their children to be good, decent, law-abiding citizens. That job is much tougher than it once was, and much tougher than it should be. But the responsibility remains; we cannot give in to indifference, a shrug of the shoulders, resignation. In the words of writer Flannery O'Connor, we have to push back as hard as the age that pushes against us.

Popular culture is one area, in particular, where we need to push back hard. For Hollywood and Madison Avenue are prominent voices in a growing national chorus. That chorus sings these lessons to our young: Pursue not justice or excellence but pleasure; if it feels good, do it; private interest precedes the common interest; the difference between right and wrong is a matter of opinion; God is, if not dead, then meaningless.

The lessons have taken their toll. In Littleton. In Los Angeles. In Washington. Throughout America. We see it too often to deny it.

In the twilight of the 20th century, concepts like truth, honor and nobility often elicit not agreement, esteem or veneration but ridicule, scorn and mockery. This is not a good thing for anyone, but it is especially harmful when it comes to raising our children. Recall the lines from C. S. Lewis' book, "The Abolition of Man": "We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst."

This is precisely what we have accomplished during the latter half of this century. Sometime after World War II, during the 1960s and 1970s, we began losing confidence in traditional sources of authority and wisdom. Some people rejected those sources outright. Many of us changed our sights; we quit looking up and began looking down.

It is worth noting that this is what Socrates warned would happen in a democracy. Parents would lose confidence in themselves and their leadership and be overtaken by youthful whims, passions and pretensions. In democracies, Socrates said, the father "habituates himself to be like his child and fear his sons, and a son habituates himself to be like his father and have no shame before or fear of his parents — that's so he may be free." These and other small things of the following kind come to pass. As the teacher in such a

situation is frightened of the pupils and fawns on them, so the students make light of their teachers, as well as of their attendants. And generally, the young copy their elders and compete with them in speeches and deed while the old come down to the level of the young; imitating the young, they are overflowing with facility and charm, and that's so that they won't seem to be unpleasant or despotic."

***"Many readers of this magazine fought against those evils [of fascism and communism]. ... The greatest evils we face today, however, come not from an enemy abroad but from within."***

**It's Never Too Late.** As I travel across the country, people are increasingly asking me whether it is "too late" to save the country from irreversible cultural decline. At the root of the question is the seed of an answer. The fact that so many Americans are concerned about the nation's moral fiber is a promising indicator. When asked what worries them most, a majority of Americans now cite moral decline and a lowering of standards in behavior. Cultural issues have a central place in today's national-political conversation. Cassie Bernal, the young woman whose last words in the Columbine library were "yes I do" when asked

whether she believed in God, is a martyr and a hero to young people — and old people — all over the country.

The better sign will be when we start attaching rhetoric with specific actions. When we not only desire but insist on better schools for our children and grandchildren.

When we not only complain about the popular culture but trade it in once in a while. When we not only proclaim that character in our leaders matters but also hold them accountable when they violate their oaths to God, family and country.

With your experience and help, we can unite and respond with a new national chorus. It should focus on two things — message and volume. The message, founded on clear, common-sense thinking, is simple enough: There is an objective difference between right and wrong, virtue and vice, noble and base, truth and falsehood. The volume question is more complicated. It will be sparked not by intelligence but by courage.

Pericles, the great Athenian statesman, said that the key to democracy is courage. And so it is. But the trick is that different times call for different kinds of courage. The courage needed today is somewhat different in nature than the courage required in the fights against fascism and communism. Many readers of this magazine fought against those evils. This nation owes you a great debt of gratitude for that. The greatest evils we face today, however, come not from an enemy abroad but from within.

So leadership is needed once more. Like before, the country needs good men and women to stand up for what is right and against what is wrong, who live their lives as examples to their fellow countrymen. Then and only then can we restore America's position in the world making it, once again, a shining example — a city on a hill. □

Article design: Kathy Joint



A woman embraces her daughter after they are reunited following the shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo.







Gary Wetzel is one of 240 men who received the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

# JUST AN AVERAGE HERO

**Low-key, soft-spoken  
Medal-of-Honor recipient  
and Legionnaire  
Gary Wetzel steps  
forward when  
necessary in war and  
peace**

**By Terry Coffey and  
Peter B. Rose**  
Assistant Editors

**M**EDAL OF HONOR recipient Gary Wetzel wanted to avoid the spotlight. He stood to the side like an invisible man while the 27 glass sails of the new Medal of Honor Memorial were dedicated. He was one of 97 Medal of Honor recipients who traveled to Indianapolis for this stirring patriotic ceremony.

"As a symbol of heroism, the Medal of Honor has no equal in American life," said event chairman John Hodowal. "The individuals who received this medal for acts of valor have been singled out not to glorify war, but to recognize that, for all its

destructiveness, war is often the backdrop for extraordinary acts of bravery.

***"It's nice to be a  
hero, but not a  
basketball star or  
football star. Just Joe  
Schmoe, who wears  
blue jeans, trying to  
make a living."***

★ Gary Wetzel

After the formalities, others enjoyed the deluge of applause, flash bulbs and TV cameras. Hundreds of visitors swept through the area with congratulations and requests for autographs. Alone and uncomfortable, Wetzel stepped aside and reflected on both the water flowing past the memorial and the course of events that brought him to this bittersweet occasion.

**Setting the Scene.** When Pfc. Gary Wetzel walked off a plane from Vietnam in 1967 he got into a brawl with hippies who spoke to him about peace and love, then asked how many babies he had killed.

Wetzel's second return from Vietnam in 1968 was more poignant. That January his helicopter had been pinned down near Ap Dong An by heavy fire. As he rushed to the assistance of his injured aircraft commander, enemy



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As a Huey door gunner, Pvt. Gary Wetzel looks out over the Vietnamese landscape.

rockets blew off his left arm.

One of the strongest single images in *Saving Private Ryan*, Stephen Spielberg's Academy Award winning movie about World War II, was of the soldier during the Normandy invasion who carried his blown-off arm while continuing to attack. Wetzel was the Vietnam version of the same grim but valorous experience.

Somehow Wetzel continued to fight despite his missing limb. Also suffering from severe damage to his other arm, chest, stomach and leg, Wetzel blacked out several times due to shock and loss of blood. Through it all, he struggled to his gun position at the helicopter door. Despite his terrific pain and the chaos surrounding him, with the one battered arm he had left, he was able to point his machine gun at the enemy emplacement that was tearing apart American troops. He wiped it out. Then he kept his commander alive.

Medically, the 20-year-old Wetzel should have been dead. Instead he found himself back in the Oakland, California airport. Wheeled off the plane on a stretcher to a waiting ambulance, the fighting should have been behind him. But when demonstrators threw animal feces at his vehicle, attendants had to restrain him from going after them.

Wetzel was never embittered by the war injuries that laid him up for six months in Vietnamese, Japanese and American hospitals. Half of his body was broken, but his toughest adjustment was his reception as an amputee by the public. "I accepted the fact that I lost an arm," he says. "I knew it wasn't going to grow back, so let's get on with life."

**Flag Supporter.** Although he shied away from celebrity status on a stage that honored him as a hero, he continually uses that distinction to help others. He has testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on the flag protection amendment. In 1996 he ran for Congress. Despite the long hours he puts in as a heavy equipment operator, he finds time for frequent meetings with Wisconsin school children.

Inner-city kids have particularly impressed him. "In this challenging urban environment that offers little and demands much, I am constantly amazed at how these children listen, and how they genuinely recognize not only the sacrifice and devotion of our great heroes but that defending the flag for which their forefathers gave so much is important, and the right thing to do," Wetzel said.

After speaking to 100 Milwaukee

**"... I am constantly amazed at how these children listen, and how they genuinely recognize not only the sacrifice and devotion of our great heroes but that defending the flag for which their forefathers gave so much is important, and the right thing to do."**

★ Gary Wetzel



During a memorial service on the Legion Mall in Indianapolis, Wetzel salutes fallen comrades.

eighth graders recently, many of whom were gang members, he found his mailbox stuffed with letters from the students declaring him their role model.

"It's nice to be a hero, but not a basketball star or football star. Just Joe Schmoe, who wears blue jeans, trying to make a living," he said. □

Article design: Mary Lawson



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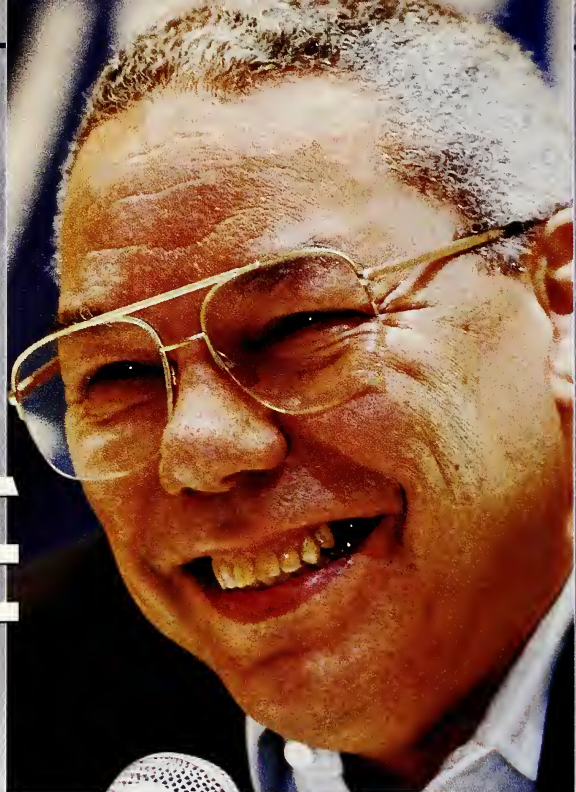
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# A HOPE AND A PROMISE

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Retired Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a 1999 news conference.

**R**etired Gen. Colin Powell is one of today's best-known and admired military leaders. He was born in 1937 in New York City and attended City College as a cadet in the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

After two tours in Vietnam, he held many key positions, including national security adviser to President Reagan in 1987. Promoted to four-star general in April 1989, Powell became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the first black officer to hold the nation's highest military post. He played a pivotal role in the invasion of Panama in 1989 and throughout the Persian Gulf War before retiring in 1993.

The general has since penned a best-selling autobiography, taken an active role in youth advocacy with the America's Promise program and has been listed among *Time Magazine's* 25 Most Influential People. Donald Lambro, the chief political correspondent for *The Washington Times*, spoke with Powell for *The American Legion Magazine*.

**AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE:** We commemorate Veterans Day Nov. 11. What does this day mean to you, and do you think that with the passage of time and with succeeding generations who have no direct knowledge of the last great wars, that its meaning has diminished for some Americans?

**COLIN POWELL:** I think it is still an important holiday.

It's still a day where we see signs of patriotism; there are still the parades, there are still the ceremonies.

As a veteran I still feel appreciated by the American people, and I hope my fellow veterans feel the same way. But I also hope and pray that the day will come when there won't be war veterans around. That's what we fought for.

That we will not have to fight wars should be our prayer of peace. But that will only come as long as we have people willing to become veterans and because we have people who have served and are now honored veterans.

**Q.** There are some people who question whether the next generation fully appreciates the sacrifices made by veterans and whether they will want to defend America. What do you think?

**A.** I don't have any doubt about that. If the nation ever were challenged, I think you would see the same coming forward as heroes and Americans willing to serve and die for their country. There are still people who love this country that much.

It's going to be a long time before we stop producing veterans because we're not a world at peace. It's not a bad dream to have. It's a dream I have as a soldier that one day peace will come. It's the dream that General Washington had as our first commander-in-chief.

**Q.** What do you think about the state of veterans' ben-



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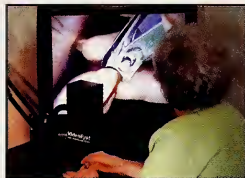
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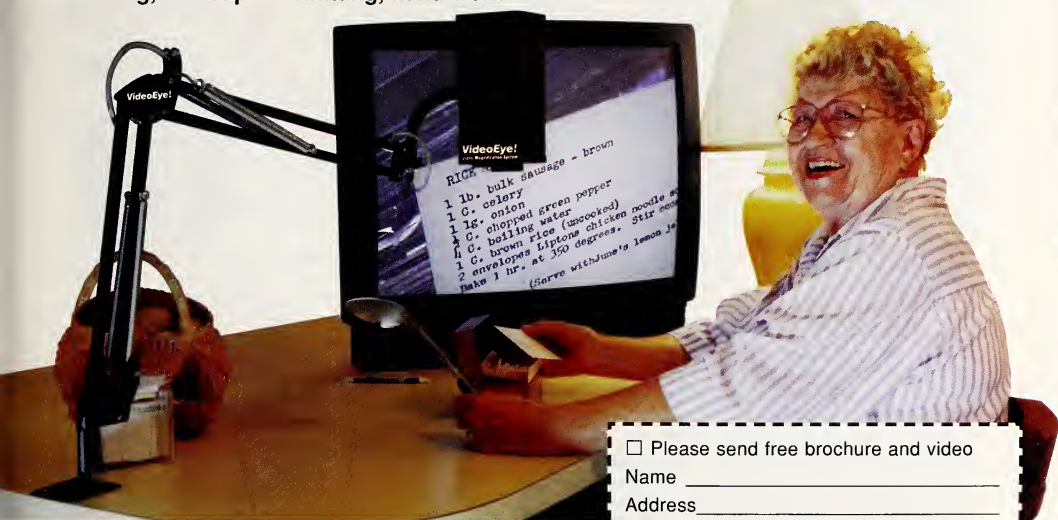


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efits today? There are many who say that we are not doing enough for our veterans, that we are not spending enough on programs and benefits for them. What is your view?

**A.** I'm a veteran and I look to the military and veterans' hospital systems to take care of my family and me. My son is a veteran. He has serious service-connected injuries, so I'm counting on that same system taking care of him as well. I think we have to make sure we invest in it properly so all veterans get the care they are entitled to, but at the same time we have to recognize the changes taking place in modern medicine with respect to outpatient care and different ways of delivering medical care. It is in our interests to make sure that the VA system is efficient and in tune with modern concepts.

**Q.** Since you retired in 1993, there has been a growing debate in this country about America's declining defense structure; that we've cut the defense budget too much, and our military resources have been stretched too thin. What do you think?

**A.** After the Cold War we thought we should come down to about 1.6 from 2.1 million personnel. Since then, the force has treaded down to under 1.4 million. The Cold War is over, but a lot of other things have come along. None of them rise to that level, but individually they add up to a lot of requirements, so you have a lot of

young people in constant turnaround from one deployment to another. As a result it is starting to affect readiness, because all of that eats up resources. I think our next president, the next administration and Congress will have their work cut for them to make an assessment of what is really needed.

**Q.** You have heard the stories during the war in Kosovo where our military was running out of repair parts, and even cruise missiles. They were cannibalizing spare parts off some planes to keep others running.

**A.** There is always some of that when you surge for something. The situation is not critical, but it needs attention soon so it never becomes critical. The reason it isn't critical is because there is no challenge out there that we can't really deal with right now. There's nobody who meets our level of efficiency or our level of strength right now. But we don't want to give that up. We've given up that position before in the past and regretted it after World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. We don't want to make that mistake again.

**Q.** You recently signed a letter to the movie industry, raising concerns about the growing levels of violence and sex in movies and the impact on kids. What led you to sign it, and how would you rate the moral health of today's youth compared to previous generations?

**A.** What motivated me was that character development of our young people can be undercut if they come home and are inundated with images of extreme violence and explicit sexual activity long before they are old enough to understand it fully and long before they should be exposed to it by a common sense standard. That letter calls for voluntary constraints. It asks the industry to take a look at the system you used to have where you had voluntary standards and see if you shouldn't go back to some voluntary standards and not use the First Amendment as an excuse for inundating us with the least angels of our nature for the purposes of making a buck. It's not artistic.

**Q.** Can you give our readers an overview of what America's Promise has achieved since you launched it two years ago?

**A.** It's an effort to mobilize the nation at all levels to get into the lives of our children. We're doing this by expanding mentoring programs, building safe places for children to spend afternoons, Boys and Girls Clubs and things like that, and making sure they acquire marketable skills needed for a demanding economy. And finally, something I think will appeal to Legion readers; it is encouraging them to find ways to serve the nation and their community through several service programs such as Boy Scouts, Junior Achievement or 4-H Clubs.

The American Legion and the other service organizations are ideally suited to be a part of America's Promise because they have locations across the country, and they have people who understand the value of service. They have people who have been in uniform and know what discipline and structure are all about; people who have been drill sergeants and people who can serve as role models in schools, clubs and other places where children are. □

**1937:** Born in Harlem, N.Y., to Jamaican immigrants.

**1958:** Received bachelor's degree in geology from New York City College; received Army Commission, assigned to Ft. Benning, Ga.

**1962:** Married Alma Vivian Johnson, a high school principal's daughter from Birmingham, Ala.

**1962:** Sent to South Vietnam as military advisor.

**1968:** Awarded the Purple Heart for combat injuries in Vietnam.

**1971:** Received master's degree in business administration from George Washington University.

**1972:** Honored with White House Fellowship.

**1977:** Named Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense by President Carter.

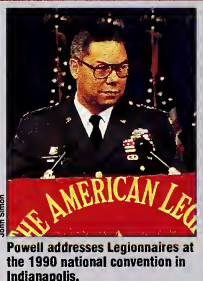
**1987:** Appointed National Security Advisor by President Reagan.

**1989:** Named chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Bush — the first African-American to hold the position.

**1991:** Credited as key architect of Operation Desert Storm after Iraqi defeat — awarded Presidential Medal of Honor by President Bush.

**1993:** Retired from Army.

**1997:** Founded America's Promise, a non-profit organization aimed at helping America's youth succeed in life.



Article design: Elaine Benken



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## Russian Y2K Threat

**Y**2K IS ALMOST HERE, but are we really prepared? Former CNN science editor Kevin Sanders, concerned about a nuclear accident, has advised that nuclear power plants be shut down and nuclear weapons be taken off full alert.

Here, Sanders says we should have some warning about approaching chaos. He explains, "As the Y2K shadow moves across the world, from east to west, beginning at the international date line — first New Zealand then Australia — we should have about 17 hours warning of what to expect."

Sanders, now with the War & Peace Foundation in New York, says these are the first Western computer-dependent countries "to fall under the shadow of the millennium as it moves across. If the lights and communications in New Zealand go down, and two hours later in Australia, that will be the sign that it's going to be pretty disruptive everywhere."

In such a situation, he says, it's virtually impossible to predict the chaos or confusion that could follow. A power grid failure could result in the accidental release of nuclear materials, he says, and if the commanders of Russian nuclear weapons on a hair trigger alert get false information or are deprived of information, they could assume they are under attack and launch a nuclear strike.

In response, the Nuclear Energy Institute says American power plants are "well positioned" to continue to generate electricity "safely and reliably." As for the weapons, Sens. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., and Robert Bennett, R-Utah, members of the Senate Y2K committee, were strongly pushing for a joint nuclear early warning center between Russia and the United States.

## The Bucks Stop Here

**I**F NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS are avoided, look for the United States in particular to come out of Y2K looking pretty good. "Where the financial markets are concerned, we are already benefiting from money coming into this country looking for a parking place during the millennium changeover," says Chris Temple,

editor of the "National Investor" financial newsletter. "When we get into early next year and see the world markets are functional here and elsewhere, some of that money may leave."

Temple says Y2K probably will not be one big event but "a series of events" producing "breakdowns in some sectors of the world economy that could cause a recession."

Ultimately, he predicts, some of the money invested here will go to Europe and Japan. But this won't happen until international investors come to the conclusion that the U.S. economic boom and stock market rise have run their course. America, he says, will continue to be a safe haven for many months to come.



Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura celebrates at his inaugural ball in January.

## Presidential Candidate?

**U**.S. TAXPAYERS Party founder Howard Phillips says his third party hopes to be on all 50 state ballots. Phillips, the Taxpayers Party presidential candidate in 1996, was on the ballot in 39 states. As for the Reform Party, he says, "Jesse Ventura controls that party. He has a majority on its national committee and his candidate for chairman, Jack Gargan, defeated Ross Perot's candidate. Ventura clearly is interested in running for the presidency, if not in the year 2000, then the year 2004."

One key difference is that the

Reform Party gets federal election money and the Taxpayers Party neither seeks nor accepts it.

## Blending New Fruit

**C**RITICS CALL THEM Frankensteins foods. And Gerber, the largest maker of baby food, says it won't permit genetically modified ingredients in its products. But Dr. Henry Miller of the Hoover Institution says Gerber was intimidated by activists from the environmental group Greenpeace. Miller, who worked for the Food and Drug Administration, says scientific development of new foods and food products promises more and better food for everyone.

Currently, genetically altered foods are already part of our diets. He cites seedless grapes, the mutant peach — also known as the nectarine — and the tangelo and disease- and pest-resistant tomatoes. Another advantage, he says, is growing such foods will diminish the need for farmers to use agricultural chemicals which wash off into waterways.

Miller says going "organic," as Gerber has promised, means the baby food will have "potentially higher levels of fungal toxin, bacterial contamination and insect parts." He adds, "If Gerber thinks that's what mothers want and expect in their baby food, they have a shock coming."

## Dictator Castigated

**T**HEY'VE GONE AFTER Augusto Pinochet of Chile and Slobodan Milosevic. Why doesn't the "international community" go after Cuban dictator Fidel Castro? At the very least, says international lawyer George Fowler, the United States should indict Castro for his role in the Cuban MiG shootdown of two civilian planes flying in international air space in 1996, killing all four persons. Three of them were Americans.

Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crime, agrees. He says the families of the victims should be able to collect financial damages from frozen Cuban assets in the United States. Calling the shootdown "murder," a federal judge has awarded them \$187 million.

— Cliff Kincaid



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## Legion members mourn tragic loss of Legislative

CHARLES PESSO, National Legislative Chairman, passed away unexpectedly Aug. 31. PESSO had been chairman since 1989 – and with the Commission since 1962 – and held many other Department and National positions. Any layman could pick up his resume and know PESSO was dedicated to the Legion.

Pesso served as New York's Internal Affairs Chairman, Department Vice Commander, National Distinguished Guests Committee member, Department Citizens Flag Alliance Chairman, National Legislative Commission member, National Legislative Council member, National Legislative Council Vice Chairman, and a member of the National Veterans Planning and Coordinating Group. "He's been involved in nearly every piece of legislation we've passed in the last 30 years," says Steve Robertson, director of the National Legislative Commission. "He played an integral role in changing the membership charter to ex-

tend the eligibility periods and in having VA added as a cabinet post."

For those who never met PESSO in per-



Charles PESSO

son, photographs published in *The American Legion Magazine* and this year's Convention guide have effectively captured his persona. Photos of him shepherding legislation during congressional hearings pictured an astute, dogged lobbyist. Yet on the pages of the Convention guide, his portrait reflects his genuine concern for humanity.

Pesso served in the Army, stormed through the surf of Normandy and survived the Battle of the Bulge. In 1994, PESSO was invited by France to attend the 50th anniversary of the invasion and participate in the ceremonies. Such invitations were common for the respected Legionnaire. President Clinton made it a practice to extend such invitations to PESSO on a regular basis. "Since Clinton has been in office," notes Robertson, "Charlie has attended nearly every memorial service."

Fame and notoriety, however, did not put PESSO out of reach with Legionnaires at the Post level. "He was one of his gen-

## Legionnaires offered new "iBelong" Internet

IT'S HARD to turn on the radio or television these days without hearing about "dot com" this or "backslash" that. Legionnaires who have yet to cash in on the cyber-revolution can soon jump in with a little help from National Headquarters. Beginning at the national convention in Anaheim, the Legion will offer Internet service called *iBelong*, as well as an opportunity to invest in a Gateway computer.

"*iBelong* will market through direct mail and our publications, *The American Legion Magazine* and *Dispatch*. In addition the company had a booth at the convention," said Dan Brannon, Legion manager of Internet Operations. "They provided individual member accounts, which included e-mail and three megabytes of space for personal World Wide Web pages. They offered an avenue to purchase Gateway computers and the Market Place – where you can purchase special-offer items over the Internet."

The service will cost \$17.95 per month with 150 hours worth of Internet

time. According to Brannon, installation is as easy as putting the *iBelong*-supplied disks into one's computer, following the instructions that appear on screen, dialing a toll-free number and voila – you'll be surfing the Net in no time.

Once installed, members who log on to the Internet will be taken to a start or "portal" tailored for The American Legion ([www.ibelong.com](http://www.ibelong.com)). The portal features local weather forecasts, sports, lottery results, local movie listings and reviews, a search feature allowing members to find information throughout the entire World Wide Web and even up-to-the-minute stock quotes – all accessed with the click of a mouse button. Additionally, members can customize the look and feel of the portal to suit their own particular interests.

"We're the only company working with organizations, many nonprofit, like The American Legion," said Robert Viney, *iBelong* director of Marketing. "What we're doing will allow members to communicate with one an-

other more often in a trusted environment. Parents can keep in touch with children at college, scanned photographs of those children can be sent to friends and relatives, and overall, a more efficient and reliable communications system will keep members in touch with others no matter what their locations."

Viney said that while not all Departments have their own Web sites, those that don't can utilize the e-mail feature to stay connected with members. From the portal, members interested in getting their Posts on the World Wide Web can browse through the Frequently Asked Questions area for tips and pointers on creating their own personal Web pages. *iBelong* also offers round-the-clock customer service for solutions to problems not found within the portal areas.

According to Brannon, the Action Center area, accessed from the portal, is a good one-stop source for current Legion news, events and issues. It allows members to "make a difference"



# Chairman Pesso

eration's heroes," says Past National Commander Butch Miller. "But his humility kept his heroism in the background."

Pesso had the reputation as the man who knows Washington. If veterans needed information on burial rights, receiving benefits or simply who to contact in the VA, Pesso would give them the answer.

A testimonial for such dedication came at his funeral. More than 300 fellow Legionnaires were able to attend. That figure is more impressive considering the memorial occurred with so many Legionnaires and close friends who were in Anaheim, Calif., to attend the National Convention.

Pesso's family has requested that, as an alternative to sending flowers, contributions be made in his honor to the National Emergency Fund or American Legion Baseball Scholarship Fund.

—Layne Cameron

# service provider

by entering their own opinions and suggestions on topics such as the latest developments in congressional funding for the VA or the upcoming vote in the Senate on the flag-protection issue.

"National Headquarters will have about one-third of the portal to showcase Legion activities and provide members with news and links to current issues," Brannon added.

The Market Place section gives a double incentive for Legionnaires to purchase goods online. First, there is a great selection of "stores" to choose from. Second, once signed up with *iBelong's* Internet service, each account is credited with \$25 to spend on the same kind and variety of goods and services found in these stores, and for special offers. In the near future, Emblem Sales will have its own catalog online. This should mean an even more efficient way for members and Posts to purchase items needed for Legion activities.

The *iBelong* portal can be found on the Legion's Web site [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

—Steve Brown

# Soldier brings new face to Legion

IT'S HARD not to notice Ruth Berganza. The face of the 19-year-old stood out among the sea of more mature faces that filled the Anaheim Convention Center during the 81st National American Legion Convention. But according to the young Army Reserve soldier, it doesn't have to be that way.

As a matter of fact, she credits her membership in the veterans' group to a couple of individuals who just bothered to ask her to join. And since that day almost two years ago, the member of Los Angeles Post 8 has been asking others to sign up — including 47 of her fellow 349th General Hospital service-members she recruited in one day.

Berganza, who was elected by her Post as Third Vice Commander for Women, may hold the title of youngest officer in the Legion. That fact doesn't stop her from being one of the Post's best examples of what can be accomplished when motivation and enthusiasm are present.

"One of the Post members, Jesse Morales, came down to talk to my Army Reserve unit commander to tell him about my participating in The American Legion. It was during this meeting that I asked the commanding general to join," she explained. "Before I was finished, I had gotten my colonel, sergeant major and first sergeant to sign up as well. Every member of my section became a member."

The Los Angeles native cited college benefits as the primary reason for her enlistment in the military at the age of 17, but she claims she's reaping more than just the money that has paid for her attending a local travel school.

"I love feeling like I belong to something. I feel like I'm part of a team and I take a lot of pride in serving my country. My mother is even more proud!"

She has found the same satisfac-



Ruth Berganza

tion as a Legionnaire. One of her favorite Legion activities is going to the veterans home in Barstow, Calif., where she enjoys visiting with the residents.

Berganza hopes others her age will find out that becoming a member of The American Legion is more than "discounts on rental cars and hotel rooms."

"A lot of people don't know what the Legion is all about," she said. "But we have to get the word out. The Legion will not last forever unless people like me get involved."

—Kathy Farris

VETS® is a private veterans program that provides The American Legion with information about reunions, helps veterans locate old buddies and offers other special benefits and services to veterans and their families.

## REUNION INFORMATION

This month we have listed many groups that are planning reunions. Information is provided free to Legion members and other veterans who write VETS and enclose the 5-digit VETS number of each reunion. VETS maintains reunion and contact information for more than 12,000 outfits. Reunion information is also available at no charge on the Internet at [www.vets.org](http://www.vets.org). Many libraries and schools will provide Internet access free for veterans with no Internet access or computer skills. We regret that due to call volume we cannot accept phone requests for reunion information. See "How to Use VETS Services" below.

## OUTFIT ENROLLMENT IS FREE

Coordinators may list reunion information with VETS at no charge. Information may be submitted electronically via the VETS website or on official forms by writing VETS®. Individuals planning new reunions or offering themselves as points of contact for possible new reunions may also register at no charge.

## THE NATIONAL VETS® ARCHIVES

The National VETS Archives is a free historical registry for veterans who want to be listed on the VETS roster for each outfit in which they served. Registration is free but to ensure accuracy, must be on official archive forms. Registration may be done electronically at the VETS Internet home page. VETS uses the archives to develop historical rosters and reunion contact information. Deceased veterans may be enrolled posthumously by a family member.

## FINDERS/SEEKERS®

Each year for nearly a decade, VETS has helped thousands of veterans get in

touch with their outfits and buddies. Ann Landers and Dear Abby have shared our success with millions of their readers and now due to technology and demand, Finders/Seekers has moved to the Internet. A searchable list of our active files is available on the VETS home page. We encourage all veterans to check this registry to see if someone is trying to find them. Individuals who order Finders/Seekers will have their requests listed and also receive our free tips on how to locate missing veterans. Cost is a non-refundable \$15. Please do not send cash. We accept checks, money orders and MasterCard, Visa and Discover cards.

## VETS® BENEFITS

Veterans who enroll in the National VETS Archives are eligible for a variety of products and services offered by VETS. Veterans who qualify automatically receive notices about their outfit reunions, free or discounted Finders/Seekers services and other VETS consumer benefits. In most cases, VETS benefits can be extended to other family members and the survivors of deceased veterans. Details are available on the VETS website or by writing VETS.

## HOW TO USE VETS® SERVICES

To promote better accuracy and faster response, and except for reunion information requests, official VETS forms should be used to submit information or request other services. Forms are available free on the VETS website at [www.vets.org](http://www.vets.org) or they may be obtained by writing VETS at P.O. Box 910, Columbia, MO 65205-0901 and enclosing a self-addressed, stamped #10 (long) reply envelope. VETS normally responds to all written requests the next business day. To keep costs low and still handle thousands of requests each week, VETS does not place phone calls for reunion information. In an emergency, messages about other services may be left on the VETS voice mail system 24 hours a day at (573) 474-4444. You can also reach VETS via e-mail at [admin@vets.org](mailto:admin@vets.org).

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## AIRY AIR FORCE

5th AF, 679/703/1022/1536/1537/1539th Ord Cos (SW Pac, WWII) #10274; 15th AF, 50th Air Serv Sq (WWII) #22185; 19th Air Depot Grp, Hq/Superior Sqs #16749; 35th Ftr Grp, 39th Ftr Sq #16828; 54th TC Wing, Hq & All Related Grps/Sqs #10862; 61st Troop Carrier Sqdn #19081; 435th TC Grp, 76/77/78th TC Sqs (WWII) #16959; 468th Bomb Grp (VH) #20631; 780th Bomb Sq (H) (WWII) #12622; 1915th QM Truck Co (Avn) #22871; 15184 TC Grp, 39th TC Sq (WWII, SW PAC/Cold War Eur) #15184

## AIR FORCE

6th Ferry Comm (Long Beach AB, Civ/Mil Pers, WWII) #21085; 10th Air Div, 66th FIS (AK) #28376; 13th AA/AF, 23rd Bomb Sq(H) #19035; 15th AF, 154th Tac Weather Recon Sq (Bari, Italy) #23248; 25th NORAD/AF Division 50th Anniversary (1948 - 1998) #23968; 35th Ftr Ctl Grp, #28407; 41st RSM/6913th/7011th Pers Proc Sqs (Ger 51-57) #21419; 19874 TAC Hospital (RAF Lakenheath, 66-70) #19974

54th WRS (Anderson AFB/Guam 67-71) #11384; 306th Bomb Wing (McCoy) #19969; 397th Bomb Grp Assn #21528; 506th Ftr Wing #24012; 735th AC&W Sq (Ft Morocco 52-60) #11432; 1094th USAF Spec. Rep. Sq. (Kushmore AFS) #14020; 3360th Inst Grp, Minuteman Pers (Chanute AFB 61-65) #21571; 7167th Spec Air Missions Sq (Incl Assc Personnel) #19431; 7485th Food Serv. Sq. (Erving AB, Ger. '51-54) #13260; Air Forces Escape & Evasion Society #15143; EOD Masterblasters Inc #19889; Pilot Class 49-C #22677; Tachikawa Baseball Team #10603

## ARMY

1st Inf Div, 1st Sig Co Assn #15016; 2nd Inf Div, 82nd AAA AW Bn(SP), (49-Now) #13993; 2nd Sig. Corps (Radio, '53/54) #16000; 3rd

Army, 664th Topo Engrs Co (ETO, WWII) #10217; 3rd Sq, 107th Arm'd Cav, 3640th MAM Co. #15862; 4th Arm'd Div, Arty., 126th Ord. MM Co. (WWII) #15882; 5th Arm'd Div (Midwest Chapt) #15791; 5th Sta Hospital #21671; 6th Arty, 8th Bn, C Btry (65/66) #15283

6th Inf Div, 6th Sig Co #15880; 7th Engr(C) Bn (All Yrs) #18718; 9th Arm'd Div, 9th Arm'd Engr. Bn. #15548; 13th Arm'd Div, 24th Tank Bn (WWII) #15246; 26th FA Bn (Korea 50-58) #16653; 32nd Inf Div, 32nd MP Pltm (S Pac, 42-45) #16026; 34th Engr(C) Bn (Okinawa/Korea, 45-47) #15571; 35th Inf Div, 137th Rgt #19347; 37th Inf. Div., 129th Rgt., I Co. #21655; 38th Inf. Div., 152nd Rgt., 2nd Bn., Hq Co. #16640

43rd Inf Div, 169th Rgt. H Co (50-52) #12120; 44th Engr Bn Assn (WWII) #16518; 52nd MP Co. #19841; 61st Sig. Bn. (WWII) #15579; 74th FA Bn (WWII) #20648; 85th Inf. Div., 85th Sig. Co. #22634; 88th Inf Div (Western Chapter) #23935; 96th AAA Bn 1 Hq Battery Fort Richardson AK #23955; 97th Inf Div, 303rd Rgt. M Co (WWII) #15639; 97th Inf Div, 386th Rgt. L Co #16074; 100th Inf Div, 375th FA Bn #15646; 107th Cav Band/122nd AGF Band (WWII) #18850

147th Engr(C) Bn #10423; 188th Ord, HM Tank, Hq/Med Bn #14292; 223th Ord. Base Grp., Hq & Hq Co. (WWII) #13375; 251st Station Hospital #15425; 291st MP Co (61-63) #22512; 336th Amphib Engr(C) Bn (ETO, WWII) #15721; 339th RCT, "Polar Bear Assn" (All Units, WWII) #15251; 377th Harbor Craft Co #10926; 423rd Med Collect Corps (ETO, WWII) #21059; 436th Ord MVA Co #23290; 457th Engr Depot Co (WWII) #20633; 465th FA Arty Bn (Korea) #23494; 473rd Inf Rgt. K Co/505th CAAA, Btry F (WWII) #16146; 488th AAA Bn #11146; 505th MP Bn, A/B/C Units (WWII) #16417; 517th Para RCT Assn #16164; 534th AAA Bn, A Btry #10970; 550th Signal Base Depot Co #15351

557th MP Guard Co (49-50) #15274; 687th FA Bn #16298; 738th (M) Tank Bn(SP) (WWII) #15240; 792nd MP Bn, 276th MP Co (N Africa/CB) #18721; 829th FA Bn #15367; 854th Engr Avn Bn "Spearheaders" (WWII) #16563; 888th Sig. Co. Dep. Avn. (New Guinea-Manila, WWII) #15877; 961st Engr. Maint. Co. #16190; 1010 Engr Treadway Bridge Co #21868; 1620th MP Unit (Camp McCoy) #13442

3102nd Sig. Serv. Bn. (China WWII) #22568; 3792nd QM Truck Co #20911; 705/85th; AAA Gun Bn, C Btry (Okinawa, '50/54) #21333; ASA: 328th Community Recon Co (52-55) #16706; ASA: 3rd 8th RRU (VN) #14092; ASA; Hq, ASAPAC (Tokyo, 46-52) #12046; OCS Alumni Assn, Inc #15831; Ord Overseas Maint & Modification Det (Kangaroo) #14724; Spec Ops Assn #10673; WAC 149th Hq Co #19361

## COAST GUARD

IX-50, AO-45, WSC-138/139/140/153 (Greenland Plt 40-45) #23141; USCG Vess Reunion (All Eras) #11444; USS Hunter Liggett AP-27/APA-14 (WWII) #12796

## MARINES

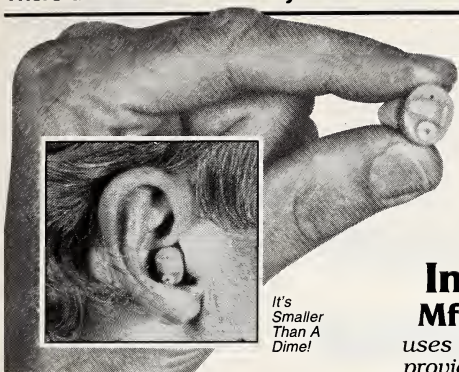
1st Mar Div, 7th Rgt, 1st Bn (Korea, 50/51) #21247; 5th Amphib Corps, MP Co, H&S Bn #17187; Keystone Marines (PA, AMMV) #14945; Women Marines Assn #21046

## NAVY

CBMU-1/MAG-33 (incl Mar) #19189; CBMU-546 (WWII) #28375; ComSer Div. 101 #17382; Fleet Air Wing 7 (Dunkeswell, Eng, WWII) #13437; LST-516 (WWII) #23207; LST-669 (WWII) #18400; LST-781 (WWII) #18217; LST-867 #17798; NAS Barbers Point (Oahu HI) #14363; S.A.H. 7 #18413; Ship's Co, Camp Elliott (San Diego, 44-46) #23260; US Naval Mine Warfare School (Yoktown VA, 1942-1958) #24046; USS Aaron Ward DD-483 #18522



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For the last couple of years, I've constantly had to ask people to repeat what they just said to me... I've turned up the volume on the TV so loud that everyone in the house complains... and my wife and children tell me that I'm speaking too loud.

Naturally, I've denied everything. I didn't want to admit I knew that I was having a slight hearing problem. I was hoping it would go away, all by itself, without doing anything about it! But, deep down inside, I knew I needed a little extra help in the hearing department, and lately, I needed this extra help more and more.

My wife was so tired of me asking her to either speak louder or repeat everything she said. We were having arguments over my hearing. Finally, she insisted that I get some help.

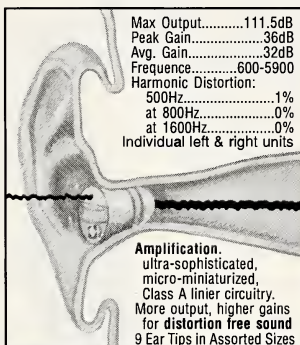
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**MaxiSound** worked so well for me that I am now marketing them direct to the consumer. And, I know that they'll work for you too! It's great to be able to hear the TV clearly again.

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USS Rocky Mount AGC-3 (AGC Flagship Alliance, WWII) #18380; USS Terry DD-513 #17316; USS Tinsman DE-589 #17668; USS Trever DD-339 #10726; USS Tripoli CVE-64 (Korea 52-56) "Travelling T" #22432; USS Tulsa PG-22 #19389; USS Uvalde AKA-88 (44-68) #18396; USS Vallette DD-448 #19589; USS VALLEY VORGE, CVA 45, VF-92 (1952 & 1953) #23966; VP-40 (Seaplane Era) #17597; VX-2 Air Unit #17364

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Philip E. Cvach (1999) 180 Rosedale, Md.

Richard C. Aul, F. L. Boyer, James Caggese, John A. Errington, Manuel Gomez, Christine D. Little (1998) 185 Hilton Head Island, S.C.  
Mildred Rice (1998), Don Denton (1998) 17 Greenville, Tx.  
Eveo Landini, Oscar Sauer (1998), Paul Devore (2000) 168 Knoxville, Iowa.

#### IN SEARCH OF

Anyone who served in the 456th Bomb Group, contact Henry Brown III N. Polk St. Mena, AR 71953 (501) 394-4664.

Anyone who served in the 1461st AAF Base Unit attached to the ATC from 1944-46, contact Robert Lock (937) 456-0625 256 Eaton Ave. Eaton, OH 45320-1028.

Anyone who served onboard the USS McNulty DE-581 during WWII, contact John McNulty 940 4th Ave. Brockway, PA 15824-1340.

Any member of the US Constabulary who served in Germany or Austria from 1946-52, contact W.M. Olive Jr. Comdr. 13876 Rose Rd. Willis, TX 75719 (972) 875-1001.

Anyone who served in the 3rd Bn. 5th Mar. Reg. 1st Marine Div. from July 1945 - Sept. 1945 or with the Battalion Intelligence Office, Okinawa Shima Oct. 1945 - March 1946 contact Jerome Steigmann 15422 N. 2nd Way Phoenix, AZ 85022 (602) 993-1824.

Anyone who served with US Army CI. James Wright in Worms, Germany 1945-48 contact Richard Guyette 192 Lincoln Ave. Rutland, VT 05701.

Anyone who served in the 1581st ORD Supply & Maint. Co. during WWII in India contact Wesley Wallis Rte. 3 Box 2180 Carnegie, OK 73015 (580) 654-2094.

Former members of Co. E 338th Infantry 85th Div. who served in N. Africa and Italy contact Scott Street 1446 Whittier Rd. Ypsilanti, MI. 48197.

Anyone who served with the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division during WWII contact David Kirkpatrick 2361 Iowa Dr. Melbourne, FL 32935-2634.

Anyone who served in the 97th Infantry Division contact Norman Mathis 2109 Linden Ave. Middletown, OH 45044 (513) 422-3900.

Any members of the Tank Destroyer School OCS Class 54 Camp Hood Texas. Contact Russell Sesto 4710 E. Wind Lake Rd. Union Grove, WI 53182-9657 (414) 514-2757.

Anyone who served with BMC Edwin Joseph Hill aboard USS Nevada at Pearl Harbor 12-7-41 contact Paul McBride 415 Wood Lane Denton, MD 21629 (410) 479-5278.

Anyone who served in the 38th Field Hospital during WWII contact Francis G. Balcom P.O. Box 52 Glenmet, NY 12077-0052.

Anyone who served on the Jack "C" in 1945 in the Pacific Theater contact M.F. Ryan 166 Dorking Rd. Rochester, NY 14610 (716) 381-6675.

Anyone who served in the 604th Army Engineer Camouflage Bn. in 1944 contact Lynne Lawrence 50 Rockview Dr. Irvine, CA 92612.

#### TAPS

William J. Olmstead, Dept. of New Hampshire, Nat'l Security Council Memb (1963-64), Nat'l Rehab Cmte. Adv. Bd. Memb. (1964-65, 67-68), Nat'l Foreign Relat. Cncl Memb (1965-66), Nat'l Cntr Subvsy Activity Cmte. Memb. (1966-67), Nat'l Vets. Pref. Cmte. Memb. (1968-72), Dept. Const. Chmn. (1974-76), Nat'l Amcnsm

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■ The 70,000 square foot Museum will

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and other Allied invasions. Interactive exhibits take

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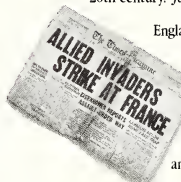
America, the planning of the invasion, the enormity of the assault and finally the Allied push

from the Normandy countryside toward Berlin. ■ Featured are many aircraft, vehicles, sentry

boxes, a wide array of weapons used by both sides,

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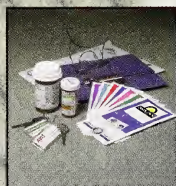


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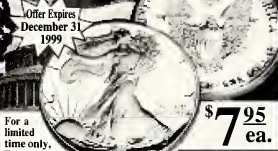
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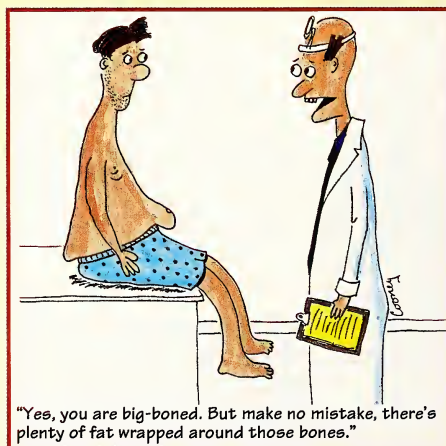
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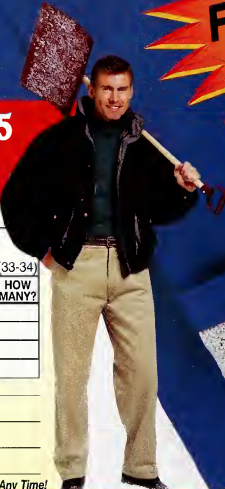
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